

THE TIMES

Today

With the flat and National Hunt seasons overlapping, today is racing's busiest day of the year, with 16 meetings. The full programmes appear on page 13. Bernard Levin writes on 90 minutes of musical magic without once mentioning Wagner, and Gerald Kaufman questions the morality of Britain's arms trade. On the Spectrum page, looking back on the first men to look down on Everest.

Tomorrow



Edward Heath calls for international cooperation to expand the world economy - and who better to lead it, he argues, than those monetarists who are now seeing the light? Roger Scruton looks at who are the real fascists in Britain today. Spectrum talks to theatre producer Michael White as he picks up the pieces after the biggest flop in London's theatre history. Plus Suzy Menkes on this summer's holiday fashion.

### Three die in air crash

A light aircraft crashed in Cambridgeshire yesterday, killing the three men on board instantly. The Musketeer had taken off from Marshalls airport, near Cambridge, and crashed on open ground near Little Downham. Eye-witnesses said a wing fell off the aircraft.

### Easter message

Dr Robert Runcie, in his Easter sermon in Canterbury Cathedral, accused totalitarian states like the Soviet Union and South Africa of practising the lie that man was a god. The Pope celebrated Easter Mass in St Peter's Square with 100,000 pilgrims. Page 4

### NUT request

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, asked Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, to state whether he supports the creation of a professional body for teachers. Page 2

### Burglary death

A woman aged 69 who had barricaded all her doors after a burglary two years ago was battered and died in a fire after an attempted burglary. Page 2

### Border attacks

The Vietnamese widened their attacks on Cambodian resistance bases along the Thai border, forcing thousands of civilians to flee into Thailand. Seven Thai soldiers were killed. Page 3

### Fairy tale ends

The woman who with her sister 65 years ago produced pictures which convinced Sir Arthur Conan Doyle that fairies existed reveals how she faked the photographs, which were to entrance Sherlock Holmes' creator and a generation of spiritualists. Page 3

### World Cup bid

England are making a late attempt to stage the 1986 World Cup. Ted Croker, secretary of the Football Association, foresees economic problems for Mexico, the new favourites to hold the event. Page 11

Computer Horizons tomorrow investigates the fascinating new world of talking and listening computers, looks at the alarming developments in computer games and finds an accountant who turned redundancy to advantage.

Letters: On police powers, from Sir Kenneth Thompson, Mr Eldon Griffiths, MP and Judge David Williams, QC; state auditing, from Professor M. R. Garner.

Leading articles: Church and State; Treasury; Obituary, page 14; Dr Walter Pagel, Dr Michael Dolley.

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# Seamen threaten strike after Navy seizes own ship

By Paul Routledge and John Witherow

Leaders of the National Union of Seamen are threatening world-wide strike reprisals against the Royal Navy over the "seizure" of HMS Keren, a South Atlantic troopship delayed in Wallend docks by a civilian pay dispute.

The sailing of the Cunard Countess, carrying 600 relatives of the Falklands dead from Montevideo, Uruguay to Port Stanley this week may be halted by industrial action being planned by the union.

NUS leaders have been called into emergency session at their headquarters in Clapham, London, tomorrow to determine the scale of disruption to the Merchant Navy fleet. A telex message was sent yesterday to all ocean-going seamen saying: "All NUS members world-wide advised be prepared for industrial action."

Mr James Slater, the union's general secretary, who signed the cable, accused the Ministry of Defence of staging "an Argentine-style raid against an unarmed merchant vessel". He added: "We haven't got gunboats to protect our interests. All we have is our labour and expertise and we shall use that."

A strike in the South Atlantic was not ruled out. The dispute between the NUS and the Government exploded after the union learnt that the Keren, a 9,000-ton former Sealink ferry on the Harwich-Hook of Holland route, had slipped her moorings at dead of night on Thursday. Her civilian crew had been sent home for Easter leave.

Mr Jerry Wiggins, Under-Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, was unrepentant about the Royal Navy's clandestine operation, which involved ratings and officers going aboard in civilian clothes so that they would not be recognized. She would not be recognized, she

was then commissioned into the navy. "I do not think there was anything underhand about this," he said in a radio interview yesterday. "I deeply resent that suggestion. I have a responsibility to move my troops and I have to take the

The NUS telex to its ocean-going members reads as follows: "Serious incident occurred in UK March 31. Vessel ex-St Edmund (Sealink ferry in Falklands) taken over by Royal Navy. Secretly sailed from Tyne, 23.45. No NUS crew on board, no discussion, no negotiations. View this as grave threat to merchant seamen's jobs. All NUS members world-wide advised be prepared for industrial action. Further advise you on progress. Pull together."

J. Slater, general secretary.

action necessary for that." He could not wait "while a minor commercial dispute of this nature is settled".

The Keren, formerly the St Edmund, sailed with a crew of 55 ratings and 12 officers and administrators, including a few soldiers and airmen. "She is under the command of Captain Patrick Rowe and flying the white ensign," a ministry official said.

The Keren's job is to replace the Cunard Countess in her link role as a troop carrier between Ascension and Port Stanley. Last night NUS sources suggested that she was on course for Rosyth dockyard in the Forth to complete her galley refitting.

The vessel was to have been managed by the Blue Star line on behalf of the navy, employing British seamen. But NUS

### Midnight boarding

## 'She now flies the white ensign'

By John Witherow

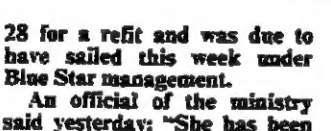
Operation Keren took place at 11.45pm on Thursday. Two buses drew up at Wallend dry dock on the River Tyne and 55 naval seamen dressed as civilians were waved through by a security guard and clambered aboard the darkened and unmanned Keren.

Thirty-six hours later the former Sealink ferry slipped moorings and towed by tugs to spend the night anchored two miles offshore. According to the National Union of Seamen, the pilot was told the ship was undergoing engine trials.

The Ministry of Defence said that the secrecy was necessary because of the unsettled pay-negotiations between the NUS and the Liverpool-based Blue Star line. It added that the vessel was needed urgently to bring back 600 Servicemen and merchant seamen from the Falklands.

The ship had been drafted in during the latter days of the Falklands conflict to be used for accommodation. She was anchored on Port Stanley harbour and became known to the troops as the "Stanley Hilton".

The Ministry decided that she would serve as an ideal troop carrier and last month bought her for £7.5m. She entered the Tyne on February

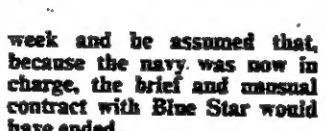


28 for a refit and was due to have sailed this week under Blue Star management.

An official of the ministry said yesterday: "She has been commissioned into the Royal Navy. It happened within hours of naval men going on board. She is now under the command of a naval officer and is flying the white ensign."

Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for West Lothian and a persistent critic of the Government's Falklands policy, said yesterday: "Reports indicate that a top level meeting of naval chiefs decided that the Keren should sail."

The ministry official said that the decision had been under consideration for about a



week and he assumed that, because the navy was now in charge, the brief and manual contract with Blue Star would have ended.

The NUS is convinced that Blue Star must have known that the navy intended to take over the vessel. Mr Jim Woods, regional secretary for the North-east, who visited the ship last week, said that he had had to pass through strict security to get into the dock.

The ministry remained calm under fire. "Our concern is for the 650 Service and civilian personnel who have been undertaking an arduous tour of duty and whose return to the UK is being delayed by the actions of this union," the official said.

"HMS Keren was bought to fulfil the function of a troopship and every day that goes by means that the men are being made to suffer because of the union."

"Because the Keren is no longer a North Sea ferry it would be absurd to pay the same rates to the crew for doing a different job and a higher rate than other merchant seamen in the South Atlantic."

Mr Neville Trotter, Conservative MP for Tynemouth, said yesterday: "The Navy is right to put the men serving in the Falklands first."



Pecking order: Mandy Walter, aged 20, meeting a two-week-old eagle owl hatched at the Falconry Centre, Newent, Gloucestershire. (Photograph: Suresh Karadia)

## Russia still hoping for missiles deal

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Western military and strategic experts say that despite the rejection by Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, of President Reagan's "interim proposal" on medium range missiles, the Soviet Union still hopes to reach agreement with the United States and is counting on Western Europe to force Washington into further concessions.

Moscow would only withdraw from the Geneva arms control talks "as a last resort", sources said.

Mr Gromyko's remarks at a press conference on Saturday showed that the Kremlin remains anxious to avoid the full deployment of new Nato missiles in Europe. Mr Gromyko gave a bravura performance, speaking for more than two hours almost without notes. It was his first Moscow press conference for four years, and underlined his status and importance to the Soviet leadership in its current efforts to impress Western public opinion in the war of words over missiles.

Mr Gromyko flatly rejected Mr Reagan's proposal for parity in medium range missile warheads as "unacceptable". His tone was mild, however, and ironic rather than aggressive. He emphasized that the Soviet Union could not be pressured into making last minute concessions, and said Mr Reagan's tactics were based on a misreading of the Russian character.

The interim proposal was "not serious", and if implemented would leave Nato with almost two and a half times as many medium range warheads in Europe as Moscow.

"There was no chance" of an agreement as long as the United States maintained its present position.

But Mr Gromyko was deliberately vague about what the Soviet Union would do if Pershing 2 and cruise missiles were deployed. Pressed to be specific, he repeated that his interests were safeguarded.

Mr Gromyko said agreement with the United States remained "the preferred option".

He rejected the Reagan plan on three counts: It ignored European-based American aircraft capable of carrying nuclear weapons; it left out of account the 162 British and French missiles, even though these were part of overall Nato forces; the United States wanted Russia to abolish its SS20 missiles in Asia as well as Europe. But the Soviet Union needed missiles in Asia to defend itself against American missiles based in Japan, South Korea and Diego Garcia.

WASHINGTON: In a detailed and swift response, the State Department has expressed disappointment at Mr Gromyko's "unconstructive initial reaction".

## White Easter leaves roads hazardous

Snow covered much of south-east England yesterday morning after overnight blizzards. In parts of Essex up to three inches of snow left many roads icy and treacherous.

All roads out of Dover in Kent were blocked for more than an hour in the morning by up to eight inches of snow, or by lorries that had skidded on icy roads.

In parts of Sussex up to four inches of snow fell. The worst hit areas were around Rye, Eastbourne and Lewes. Snow and ice also affected roads in

many parts of mid-Wales, Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

However, in North Wales, thousands of day trippers arrived at the resorts amid sunshine. Mr Ronald Smith, director of tourism for Rhyl and Prestatyn, said: "It has been one of our best Easters."

In Northern Ireland, where heavy snow and sleet fell yesterday, the police warned drivers of continuing danger on the roads.

Forecast, back page

## Middle East hopes fade

From Robert Fisk Beirut

The last chance of success for President Reagan's Middle East peace plan appeared to be ebbing away last night, as Mr Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, announced that he saw "nothing" in the American proposal for Palestinian self-government in association with Jordan on the West Bank.

"I am sorry", Mr Arafat told journalists in Amman just before meeting King Hussein for the third time in two days. "I see nothing because still the Americans completely support... the Israeli aggression, this Israeli military junta's crimes."

Mr Arafat said that he was still committed to the conclusions of the Arab summit at Fez last year, which called for an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

But, as usual, the PLO leader added a confusing rider, to the effect that the PLO's support for the Reagan plan "depends upon the attitude of President Reagan himself."

Although Mr Arafat did not elaborate, he was almost certainly referring to the PLO's request - hitherto made privately but none the less repeated on several occasions - that the United States should give a guarantee that Israel would withdraw from the occupied West Bank in return for the PLO's approval of the Reagan plan.

The White House has only been able to respond to this by repeating its demand for a freeze on Jewish settlements on the West Bank, and by discreet assurances to Arab leaders that the PLO would gain added prestige and strength by supporting the United States proposals, even at the cost of failure. Mr Arafat does not agree.

Nor, it seems, do his closest colleagues. Mr Faruk Kaddumi, head of the PLO's political department (in effect, its Foreign Minister) yesterday described the Reagan plan as inadequate. "We refuse to consider it as an adequate base (for negotiations)," he said.

Mr Khalil Wazzir, the PLO's military commander, announced that "the Palestinians are not going to give a mandate to anyone. There was a long struggle for sole representation. We are not going to allow anyone to speak for us."

It was Mr Reagan's idea that King Hussein could speak on behalf of the Palestinians in any future negotiations with the Israelis. But unless Mr Arafat has secretly produced some compromise proposal - as he was allegedly trying to do with the Jordanians last week - then the King is in no position to speak on behalf of the PLO, let alone open talks with Israel.

The King's own condition for Continued on back page, col 7

"A triumph"  
TIME MAGAZINE

"A wonderful achievement"  
THE NY TIMES BOOK REVIEW

"Brilliance"  
NEWSWEEK

"Enormous power"  
WASHINGTON POST

"This master storyteller"  
WALL STREET JOURNAL

"Transcends the genre"  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

**John le Carré**  
THE LITTLE DRUMMER GIRL  
Hodder & Stoughton £8.95



## Sir Keith is challenged to support a new teaching association

From Lucy Hodges  
Education Correspondent  
St Helier

Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, was challenged yesterday to say publicly whether he was in favour of a professional body for teachers.

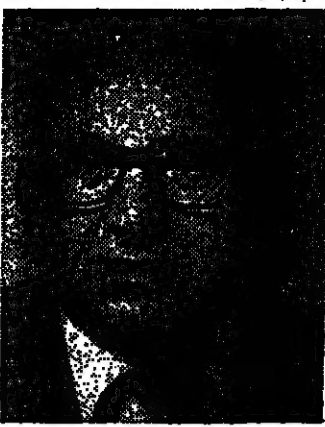
Speaking in Jersey, where the National Union of Teachers' conference is being held, Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the union, said the previous Secretaries of State had supported such a body, but the signs were that Sir Keith did not. Mr Jarvis demanded that Sir Keith say publicly where he stood.

The NUT is to seek a meeting urgently with five other teaching unions to reopen discussions about a professional teaching body similar to the one that exists in Scotland. Teachers in England and Wales have never had a professional council to regulate training ethics and entry into the profession.

But the profession increasingly sees the need for it. Last month Sir Keith published a White Paper on teacher training, in which he said he would use his powers to regulate the training curriculum.

Talks on setting up a professional body founded in 1979 on the question of composition.

Mr Jarvis said yesterday that the NUT wanted to have half the representatives elected directly from the profession and half nominated by the union. He thought the NUT, the biggest union, with 250,000



Mr Fred Jarvis: "Minister should say where he stands".

members, should have more representatives than other unions. But they disagreed. The Scottish professional body is General Teaching Council for Scotland. Most of the members are elected by the profession.

The NUT's conference really gets under way today with a debate on disarmament, which is likely to inflame passions because last year's resolution on the subject was never implemented.

Union officials were told by counsel that the resolution broke the union's rules because it involved the union in political activity.

Mr Donald Winters, the union's new president, has ruled part of this year's resolution out of order, and that will be challenged today.

The movers want the NUT to endorse the peace and disarmament policy adopted by the Trades Union Congress, including the cancellation of cruise and Trident missile agreements, removal of all nuclear bases and weapons from British soil, and support for a nuclear-free zone in Europe.

### Photocopy levy on books planned

Publishers are so annoyed with the widespread photocopying of their books in schools that they are negotiating a licensing system, whereby schools would have to pay 2p for every textbook copied.

Talks are going on between publishers and the local authority associations. Mr John Davies, director of the Educational Publishers Council, said yesterday in Jersey. He estimated that 200 million pages of books were photocopied in each school year - in contravention of copyright law.

Under the system under discussion, to begin this autumn, local education authorities would be issued with a licence which would enable schools to continue the practice. Photocopying of a textbook would cost 2p and other books 4p.

The publishers would appoint inspectors similar to the ones employed by the Performing Right Society. They feel that the only way to protect their interests without resorting to legal action is to have a licensing system.

## Ms Hutt stands by the manifesto

From Tim Jones  
Cardiff

Ms Jane Hutt, who is standing for Labour in the by-election at Cardiff, North-West, stands by her party's draft election manifesto, despite being called an extreme left-winger by Mr Roy Jenkins, leader of the Social Democratic Party, and by the Conservatives.

"My first reaction of hearing that," she said, "was that the SDP, after the result at Darlington, had to find some wild charge to fling at one of their political opponents. Mr Jenkins must be a worried man."

She added: "I do not like labels and I do not belong to any group within the Labour Party. The policies announced this week are the policies that I support."

She admires Mr Wedgwood Benn, but her hero is Mr Michael Foot, who will probably visit the constituency to help her in her attempt to become only the fourth woman from Wales to sit in Parliament.

"I shall be campaigning on the two central issues of jobs and peace," she said. "I shall be trying to show people that there is an alternative to unemployment and the lunatic arms race which threatens to destroy us all."

Ms Hutt, who lives in the poor Riverside area of inner Cardiff, is a committed unilateralist and became a member of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament 18 months ago.

She was at Greenham Common when the women surrounded the base and she has protested outside the RAF base at Brawley, in Pembrokeshire, against the arms race.

In Cardiff her commitment has expressed itself in her fight against a Royal Ordnance factory in the constituency in which she is standing. She says that the plant, which the Ministry of Defence agrees is involved in the nuclear arms programme, should be closed, with guarantees of alternative jobs for the workers.

She said that her fear of another term of "unbridled Thatcherism" was sharpened when two years ago she visited the United States to study welfare services there.

Her supporters point out that although she comes from a middle-class background - her father is Professor of Geographical Pathology at St Thomas's Hospital Medical School in London - her working experience makes her far more than a theoretical socialist.

Ever since moving to Cardiff 11 years ago Ms Hutt, who holds a degree in public and social administration from Kent University, has been involved in social work.

For the past six years she has been coordinator of Welsh Women's Aid.



Ms Hutt: "Issues are jobs and peace".



## Six-year-old cyclist rides the motorway

A six-year-old boy's Easter cycle trip was brought to an abrupt end yesterday when astonished police spotted him pedalling furiously along the M63 motorway. Oblivious of cars flashing past at 70 miles an hour, Kirk Brooks (seen above after his adventure) was crouched over the handlebars of his battered red bicycle, which wobbled its way unsteadily along the inside lane.

"At first our men had difficulty believing their eyes," a police spokesman said. "The lad seemed very put out that we would not let him continue his journey. He could not understand why he should not be allowed to use the road like everyone else."

The boy's adventure began after a disagreement with his divorced father, with whom he was spending the first few days of his Easter holiday. He crept from his father's home at Woodhouse Park, Wythenshawe, Manchester, and went to his grandmother's, near by, where his bicycle was stored, intending to return to his own home seven miles away.

But he got lost, and while police combed the area in an all-night search he was carried up asleep in a derelict house. Then, as dawn broke, he got back on his bicycle and followed signs to the M63 motorway.

Tired but safe at his home in Pepper Hill Walk, Alexandra Park Estate, Moss Side, yesterday, Kirk Brooks said: "I just wanted to get back home to Mum, and I thought the big road would be quickest. It was busy, but I am used to traffic, so I was not scared."

Mrs Margaret Brooks, aged 37, his mother, said: "I was certain something terrible had happened and spent all night pacing the floor. I am hugely relieved he is safe and have impressed upon him that he must never do anything like this again."

The boy's yearning for adventure is not new. At the age of three he was found wandering happily down the same motorway, and 12 months later he was stopped only minutes before leaving home with a packed haversack and the family's two Alsatian dogs.

## Traffic fines up in magistrates' guide

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The recommended penalty for driving without insurance should be almost doubled, from the present fine of £60 to £100, and where deliberate offence should involve disqualification of 18 months for refusing a specimen and between one and three years for drunken driving, depending on the quantity of alcohol.

The new penalty, like the old, would carry an endorsement. It is the biggest increase recommended by the association in this year's list of magistrates in England and Wales, arrived at after consultation with all its 57 branches.

Even where not deliberate, the offence of driving without insurance should carry seven or eight penalty points, the association recommends. A total of 12 points within three years means disqualification.

In fixing the level, magistrates are urged to consider not only whether the offence was deliberate, but also other mitigating circumstances, such as whether the offender was misled and whether he or she person who "permitted" the offence was responsible.

## Gromyko 'playing to gallery'

By Henry Stanhope,  
Diplomatic Correspondent

Having failed to influence last month's West German election, the Russians were now turning their attention to Britain, where an election would come within the next year, Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday.

Interviewed on *The World This Weekend* on Radio 4, he accused Mr Andrei Gromyko, of his Russian counterpart, of "playing to the public gallery in the West" at the press conference in Moscow at which he rejected the latest initiative by President Reagan at the missile talks in Geneva.

But Mr Gromyko had chosen the wrong country. The Government was determined to negotiate an arms control agreement while remaining strong enough to deter an attack in the meantime he said.

He rejected Mr Gromyko's protest that the British and French warheads should be counted in the talks on intermediate range nuclear forces (INF) in Europe. Ever since the 1960s those warheads had been regarded as strategic systems by the Russians themselves, who now for their own purposes were trying to have them included in the INF equation.

The balance of intermediate-range weapons in Europe stood at 3,750 Warsaw Pact missiles and aircraft against 980 on the Nato side, an advantage of four-to-one to the Eastern block, he said.

If the 572 American Cruise and Pershing-2 Missiles were not deployed in Europe, we would have "an extended flank, a gap in our deterrent strategy".

## Sizewell appeal dropped

An appeal to raise £500,000 for the Sizewell B inquiry into Britain's proposed first pressurized water reactor (PWR) nuclear power station has been abandoned after only £8,000 was raised in two months.

The appeal was launched earlier this year after the public inquiry into the Central Electricity Generating Board's proposal to build a PWR opened at the Sizewell B site in Suffolk. The hearing which has so far sat for 13 weeks and is due to continue until the end of the year, adjourned for Easter.

The electricity board is spending about £2m to argue the case that a £1,200m power station should be built at Sizewell, on the Suffolk coast. In spite of strong pressure on the Government to provide public funding for the objectors, Mr Nigel Lawson, the Secretary of State for Energy, refused on

## Science report Planet X cleared of upsetting Neptune

By the Staff of Nature

A new explanation has been put forward for the small perturbations in the orbits of the outer planets of the solar system, notably Neptune, which have been a long-standing puzzle for astronomers.

At one time an undiscovered Planet X, the size of the Earth and orbiting the Sun slightly beyond Pluto, was suggested as the cause, but that is not the answer, according to Dr Mark Bailey of Sussex University.

He suggests that the orbital perturbations of Neptune are instead due to the gravitational pull from an asymmetric concentration of matter in the so-called Oort Cloud, a diffuse swarm of comets in the outer reaches of the solar system.

The swarm, which is thought to start slightly beyond the orbit of Pluto and probably extends almost halfway towards the nearest star, was largely proposed in the 1950s by Jan Oort, the Dutch astronomer, as an explanation for the origin of the comets.

It is thought to be thousands of billions of nuclei left over from formation of the solar system, about four and a half billion years ago.

Dr Bailey suggests that the innermost part of that cloud, which contains the bulk of the number of comets, is not evenly distributed around the Sun as thought, but may contain a greater mass of cometary material in some directions than in others, perhaps as a result of the way in which it was formed.

Gravitationally, that asymmetry could have an effect on the motions of the outer planets similar to that of the hypothetical Planet X.

If Dr Bailey's proposal that the Oort Cloud is flattened and concentrated nearer the Sun is accepted, it may not only explain the unusual motions of Neptune, but also give clues to the way in which the Oort Cloud was formed.

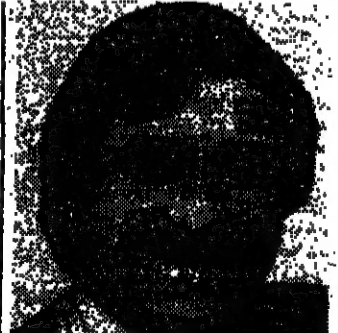
Unfortunately there is little chance of determining with certainty the actual distribution of matter in the cloud, since the comets in it are too far away to be directly seen from the Earth.

It may be possible to observe the comets as they pass in front of stars, momentarily blocking their light from Earth, but that happens unpredictably and has not yet been observed.

Although the Oort Cloud is thought to extend for a considerable distance from the Sun, perhaps 100,000 times the distance between the Sun and Earth, the outer parts of the comet swarm will have little gravitational effect on planetary motion, since it becomes more symmetric and contains less mass than the inner part, according to Dr Bailey's hypothesis.

Source: *Nature* (Vol 302, page 39) March 31 1983.

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Fred Traeman (above), the former England cricketer, is fighting back after contracting legionnaires' disease. He is spending Easter in Spain with his wife and hopes to be fit again soon.

His daughter said yesterday: "He thinks he is very lucky to be alive. He was stunned when they told him he had contracted legionnaires' disease."

Mr Traeman, aged 52, became ill when he returned from Australia, where he had been working during England's winter tour. He was treated in a clinic near his home in the Yorkshire dales.

## Man dies after being attacked in Armagh

From Richard Ford, Belfast

A Roman Catholic man died in hospital yesterday of injuries inflicted by a gang of men in Lurgan, co Armagh. Mr John McConville, age 22, an unemployed process worker, was walking home with a friend on Saturday night when the gang attacked him, leaving him lying in the street.

The gang fled in a car. The victim's friend ran off and was not hurt. Detectives last night were keeping an open mind about the reason for the attack, and they appealed for any witnesses to come forward.

The police were also investigating an incident in Moira, co Armagh, on Saturday, in which shots were fired by an army patrol near where four people were duck shooting. No one was injured.

The shooting is believed to have begun when the soldiers opened fire after hearing shots from the wildfowling.

The policy of "knee-capping" people allegedly involved in crime in nationalist areas of Northern Ireland has apparently been ended by the Provisional IRA in Belfast, more than 10 years of so-called "punishment shootings".

Mr Martin McGuinness, Provisional Sinn Féin Assembly member for Londonderry, told hundreds of people at the republican plot in Milltown cemetery, west Belfast, yesterday that the policy had been dropped.

"Knee-capping", known as "the Belfast disease", is usually carried out with a handgun and in many cases the victim is not hit in the knees but in the thigh.

Several thousand people yesterday watched bands and a party of masked men dressed in paramilitary uniforms parade along Falls Road in Belfast, in the biggest commemoration in Northern Ireland of the 1916 Dublin Easter Rising.

## Fire ferry searched after theft

From a Staff Reporter  
Belfast

Hundreds of passengers on board the French car ferry Armorieux yesterday were questioned by detectives investigating the theft of £2,000 from the car of a French school teacher who died in a fire when the vessel was off Cornwall early on Saturday.

Teams of police from the Irish Republic boarded the ferry when it docked at Ringside, near Cork, yesterday at the end of its voyage from Roscoff, and began a search of the 5,700-ton ship.

About 680 passengers were delayed for up to three hours as detectives combed cabins for the money stolen from the car, and as motorists left the ship their vehicles were searched.

A spokesman for Brittany Ferries, who own the boat, said there was no evidence that the blaze, which destroyed 66 berths, was connected with the robbery.

Last night as the ship returned to France, policemen in Cork said that no one had been arrested.

Seventy of the crew and passengers who were taken for medical examination at West Cornwall Hospital, in Penzance, rejoined the vessel for the rest of the journey, the Press Association reports.

Six passengers who were more seriously affected and were taken off by helicopter were all reported to be well yesterday.

The car and ferry passenger ferry was crossing from Roscoff, in France, to Cork when the fire was discovered as it was about twenty miles north of the Isles of Scilly. Four lifeboats, four helicopters and an RAF Nimrod aircraft took part in the emergency.

The dead man, M Jean Lamys, died from suffocation.

## Forensic science and medicine: I

### Subtler weapons for the crime fighters

Big advances in the scientific investigation of crime have been accomplished with modern and expensive apparatus developed during basic research in chemistry, biology, physics and medicine. The first article in a two-part series by PEARCE WRIGHT reports on the introduction of some of the new techniques into forensic science laboratories.

Forensic science investigations have increased dramatically over the past 20 years, reflecting the adaptation of the new methods and instruments developed originally for medical research and other aspects of physics, chemistry and biology to the specific needs of the forensic analyst.

Between 1977 and 1980 the number of investigations made by Home Office laboratories for regional police forces rose from 86,235 to 115,038. Work by the Metropolitan Police Laboratory rose from 33,780 to 49,063.

But forensic science examinations extend beyond police investigations and the half a dozen large laboratories serving them. There are about thirty laboratories at least in the UK that undertake forensic science jobs covering complaints about food contamination, infringement of factory laws and pollution offences.

With new techniques, smears of blood found at scenes of crime but which have been too small, too old or too dry for

scrutiny in the past, may now yield important evidence.

The method of analysis, by radioimmunoassay, is one of two new procedures among the growing number of scientific discoveries which lie behind the expansion of forensic science studies.

The other development enables a pattern of enzymes, giving a biochemical equivalent of a fingerprint, to be obtained from microscopic fragments of tissues at the roots of hair.

While the enzyme analysis can identify an individual, the blood smear test is more limited because it reveals the sex of the owner of the stain by showing the presence of progesterone, a female hormone, or testosterone, a male hormone.

These two innovations add considerable power to the efforts of forensic scientists to exploit our biological individuality. And that evidence may be as vital for exclusion of a person from an inquiry as for identification.

More than four years of research have gone into perfecting the two new tricks for crime investigation, and even more subtle methods are on the way.

Discoveries in genetic engineering, still at an early stage of use for clinical diagnosis by doctors, are already being explored at, for example, the Home Office Central Research Establishment at Aldermaston, in Berkshire, as

potential aids for recognizing an individual from telltale biological scraps scarcely visible to the naked eye.

Most of the investigations in Britain are shared between the Home Office laboratories, serving police forces in England and Wales, and the laboratories operated directly under police control for the Metropolitan force in London and those in Scotland.

In addition the Forensic Science Society maintains a directory of experts in Britain available for independent advice. That list probably illustrates the difference between the public perception of crime detection, absorbed from fiction and television thrillers, and practice.

Part of the misconception relates to the rather omnipotent figure of book and theatre, the Home Office pathologist, descending on the scene of crime. Apart from the fact that the pathologists are not called often, since the sort of case involving death at which one is required is relatively infrequent, they also tend to be eminent medical practitioners or academics called in on a consultancy.

Forensic scientists make a clear distinction between their activity and that of the pathologist or police surgeon engaged in forensic medicine.

The last two may conclude that a body was hit by a car or a

heavy blow on the head, but it is the forensic science evidence which may confirm whether or not a particular car, blunt instrument or person was implicated.

Allowing for all the new procedures, there are still basic questions which the forensic scientist cannot answer to the complete satisfaction of an investigating police officer.

The most obvious one concerns time of death. Although improvements have been made in narrowing the calculation, the fact remains that a body lying on a carpeted floor cools differently from one on tiles. Even more difficulty is caused when a body has been left in water.

Methods of improving time of death measurements are being tested, and the Home Office Central Research Establishment has awarded contracts to academic groups for studies. Those include examination of changes in the concentration of specific enzyme.

But for every case involving human remains there are more than 100 cases concerning offences with drugs, burglaries and motor offences or accidents. Investigations may call on just one or all three of the groups of expertise into which forensic science is organized: biology, chemistry, and drugs and toxicology.

Next: Forensic medicine.



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## Police face claim for wrongful arrest

From Our Correspondent  
Wolverhampton

A man who says he was arrested without explanation after his flat had been broken into by police officers, publicly humiliated and thrown into a cell for more than two hours, is to sue the West Midlands Police for wrongful arrest, false imprisonment, trespass and damage to property.

Less than 24 hours after Mr James Sinclair, aged 26, was allegedly subjected to that treatment another man was in custody accused of the same crime, a hammer attack on a shopkeeper in Lea Road, Wolverhampton.

Mr Sinclair, who lives in Oaklands Road, Wolverhampton, about 350yds from where the alleged hammer attack took place, on November 29 last year, said yesterday: "We have decided to sue the police. Counsel have been briefed and we are awaiting a date for the hearing."

The decision to sue will add to the controversy surrounding the Chief Constable, Sir Philip Knights, whose West Midlands force has been subjected to mounting criticism for public insensitivity and forceful methods.

On November 29 Mr Sinclair, a former Royal Artillery man, was decorating his landlord's home in Westminster Avenue, Penn, Wolverhampton. When he arrived home about 4pm he noticed a police car in the road.

He said: "I found my flat door had been kicked in. I thought I had been burgled. Everything inside was chaos. ... I bumped into a policeman coming to see me. When I confirmed my identity, he said: 'We are taking you in.'"

"At Birmingham Road police station I was booked in and flung into a cell still without knowing why I was there. Eventually a CID man took me to his office and when I explained where I had been that day, he said my story would have to be checked. Over an hour later police returned to my cell and said: 'You can go.'"

"Before they released me I did sign to the effect that I had no complaints, but when you have been locked up for two hours without cigarettes and virtually without your wits, you'll sign anything to get away."

Mr Sinclair was known to the police because a few weeks before the hammer attack he had worked near by as a petrol pump attendant. After a dispute with his boss he had taken money from the till, for which he was charged and convicted.

## Doctors win police Bill concession

By Frances Gibb  
Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Home Secretary is to amend the Government's controversial Police and Criminal Evidence Bill to meet protests from doctors over police access to confidential records.

A concession was promised at a meeting last week between Mr William Whitelaw and a delegation from the British Medical Association, which has led some of the fiercest opposition to the Bill's provisions on powers to search for evidence.

The BMA has urged doctors not to cooperate with the police over access to patients' medical records, after the Government refused to exempt such records from new police search powers.

Ways of exempting medical records might include amending the Bill to exclude certain confidential records or limiting the powers to search and seize items of evidence such as clothing and materials, but excluding files.

The concessions, which may also apply to confidential papers held by clergy and other professional groups, who have also strongly protested over the powers, come shortly before the Bill enters its report stage before going to the House of Lords.

Letters, page 9

## Developers sue minister over gallery contest

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

A firm of developers is to sue Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for the Environment, for more than £2m over the result of last year's National Gallery architecture competition.

London Land Investment & Property Company has decided to go ahead with the case even though its architect partners are almost certain to withdraw.

London Land and the American firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill combined last year to produce one of the 79 entries in the competition to design an extension to the National Gallery, in Trafalgar Square.

The two firms have since produced the £80m London Town Square development, on the site of Whiteley's department store in Queensway, west London.

The Skidmore design for the gallery was rejected last year even though gallery staff had supported it.

All designs in the gallery contest were rejected after what Mr Michael Heseltine, then



Mrs Elsie Hill drawing a fairy just as she did years ago (Photograph: Brian Harris).

## The Cottingley fairies

### Secrets of two famous hoaxers

By David Hewson

With a few strokes of her pen Mrs Elsie Hill has ended a secret she kept for 65 years. The Cottingley Fairies, which entranced Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and a generation of spiritualists, were not of ectoplasm, but of Windsor and Newton Bristol board, a tough drawing material quietly secreted by Elsie Hill, then aged 15, in her bedroom in Yorkshire.

Two weeks ago *The Times* revealed that Mrs Hill, now aged 82, and Mrs Frances Griffiths, her cousin, aged 76, had finally admitted that the drawings, which convinced the creator of Sherlock Holmes that fairies existed, were fakes.

At her home in Nottinghamshire Mrs Hill revealed the first details of the methods the two girls used, though both women are still withholding a number of important facts about the case in the hope that they will sell the autobiographies they are writing.

The fairies were created when Mrs Griffiths was reprimanded for arriving at their home in the village of Cottingley, near Bradford, late and wet from falling in a stream. Her misdeed was compounded when she blamed it on the fact that she had been playing with the fairies.

Mrs Hill, who had already revealed a talent for drawing which was to earn her a living by colouring sepia photographs of soldiers fighting in the First World War, took some pieces of Bristol board, a number of hatpins, and her father's second-hand plate camera and the girls started to produce the photographs which puzzled technical experts for 50 years.

She waited until her parents were out, usually at church society meetings, and drew the fairies in sepia, colouring them with watercolours. In most cases the girls fastened the illustrations into the ground in Cottingley Dell with hatpins.

The first photograph was treated as a family joke until

Mrs Hill's mother became a Theosophist and took one of the photographs to a group meeting. It was circulated in Theosophist circles and found its way into the hands of Conan Doyle, who made it the subject of an article in *The Strand Magazine* in 1920.

Two years later, when the Cottingley Fairies were internationally famous, Conan Doyle produced a book on the affair entitled *The Coming of the Fairies*.

Mrs Hill's father, like most of her family, was unconvinced. "He had always been a great admirer of Conan Doyle and I heard him say to my mother once: 'How could he ever believe such a thing and our Elsie nearly always the bottom of class?'"

Unreal though they were, the fairies have haunted both women throughout their lives. Mrs Hill went to the United States in 1925 because she was bored with the continuing publicity. She later married and lived in India before retiring, with her husband, to the Midlands.

"I was feeling sorry for Conan Doyle because the

press had been giving him stick about the supernatural. I knew that he had lost his son in the war and I felt he was trying to comfort himself through unworldly things. It would have been terrible for him to have been destroyed by two little village kids."

The author gave the girls £20 in war bonds, which Mrs Hill used to help to pay for her fare to the US.

The existence of most of the fairies is now explained, but one mystery remains. It concerns a photograph in which the girls, unusually, are absent, and transparent fairies are depicted apparently in a sunny grassy wood.

Mrs Griffiths maintains that she took the photograph and it is the only genuine one in the Cottingley Fairy annals.

Mrs Hill is adamant that she took it when no one else was around. "I am very proud of that one - it was all done with my own contraption and I had to wait for the weather to be right to take it. I won't reveal the secret of that one until the very last page of my book."



One of the photographs that fooled Conan Doyle.

## Thousands flee as Hanoi widens its attacks on Thai border camps

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

The Vietnamese Army widening its attacks yesterday on Cambodian resistance bases along the Thai border, forced thousands more civilians to flee into Thailand and caused turmoil in many Thai villages.

The Vietnamese spread the assault 90 miles to the north to shell the Sihanoukville camp opposite Surin province, where 30,000 supporters of Prince Sihanouk are living. Twenty civilians were wounded, five to them seriously according to British Red Cross doctors.

With the deaths of two more soldiers in hospital, Thai Army losses are now seven dead and at least 15 wounded. The casualties occurred when Vietnamese troops penetrated a mile into Thai territory near Phnom Chat, the guerrilla base captured by the Vietnamese last Thursday.

General Arthit Kamlong-Ek, Army Commander-in-Chief, said that there had been hand-to-hand fighting between his soldiers and the Vietnamese. His forces had also responded to the Vietnamese incursion by firing on Vietnamese positions with artillery and tanks.

Some Vietnamese still occupy bunkers they had dug despite Thai attempts to force them out. General Arthit said Thailand would lodge a protest at the United Nations against Vietnam's "flagrant violation of Thai sovereignty".

The Thai divisional commander in charge of the border area, Major General Prachum Biboonpanumat, said he expected more serious and prolonged fighting ahead.

About 8,000 more Cambodians fled into Thailand yesterday at Kok Taharn, north of an Aranyaprathet and were sheltering in an anti-tank ditch just inside the border. Thai and Vietnamese shells were passing over them. Earlier 18,000 had been moved from the ditch to a safer area inside Thailand.

Analysis said that the widening of Vietnam's campaign appeared further confirmation of its determination to wipe out all the resistance bases near the border. The current assault was the heaviest and most determined yet seen in the area.

Mr Son Sann, Prime Minister in the anti-Vietnamese coalition Government, said in Singapore that "Vietnam's aim is to finish us off once and for all". He appealed to the West not to stand idly by while Vietnam threatened all south-east Asia and attacked innocent civilians.

At Wong Samet and Bansa-Nge, the two largest camps under his control, almost 100,000 civilians have packed their possessions ready to flee into Thailand if the battle reaches them.

Five Thai border villages have been evacuated and schools and hospitals close elsewhere because of the Vietnamese shelling which has

wounded civilians, damaged houses and roads, killed cattle and destroyed telephone lines.

Most of the patients in the Ta Phraya district hospital were moved to a hospital at Aranyaprathet, 30 miles away, when shells narrowly missed it.

The death toll among Cambodians is not certain but reliable agencies put it at 200 with many more wounded. Nearly 250 of the most severely wounded have been evacuated to a special hospital eight miles from the border.

The hospital, which is part of the Khao-I-Dang refugee camp has seen an unprecedented response to appeals for blood for the wounded. Traditionally Cambodians are reluctant to give blood because of old beliefs. In the past the hospital has had to bring blood from as far away as Australia, according to a delegate of the International Red Cross. This time, he said camp residents were providing more than enough, a situation made more remarkable by the nature of the donors and recipients.

Although most of the people needing blood are supporters of the Communist Khmer Rouge, their bitterest enemies, anti-communist supporters of old right-wing governments have been prepared to give blood to them. Cambodian officials at the camp said it was an "amazing example of solidarity against the Vietnamese."

## Socialists favoured in Portugal

From Susan MacDonald  
Lisbon

The official Portuguese election campaign opens this week with the four main political parties facing the problem of trying to galvanize an electorate who have had a baneful of party politics since the municipal elections last December. Polling takes place on April 25.

It is only just over three months since the loudspeaker vans were last patrolling the streets broadcasting pop music and party slogans and walls were covered with political posters. In that time both the Social Democrats (PSD) and the Christian Democrats (CDS) have suffered internal upheavals and the Socialist Party has not escaped its share of internal dissent.

Only the Moscow-orientated Communist Party retains an outward appearance of unity. Both the PSD and the CDS have new leaders and, they say, a new look after the break up of their Democratic Alliance coalition.

Dr Mario Soares the Socialist Party leader, is perhaps the ablest at managing to inject some spirit into his campaign declarations; but there is little to separate the basic policies of the PSD, CDS and Socialists.

Portugal's problems are well known to both the politicians and the electorate. Senhor Mota Pinto, the new PSD leader, speaks of his party's aim to promote a mixed and competitive economy and the need to open up the untapped public sector, including denationalizing banking and to amend the present labour laws - all policies advocated but not implemented by Senhor Pinto Balsemão, the former PSD Prime Minister.

Senhor Lucas Pires, the new CDS leader, speaks of liberal nationalism and the need to stimulate investment and creativity. Dr Soares in his "100 measures for the first 100 days" declaration aims to stimulate the economy by promoting competition.

The Socialists also now talk of denationalizing the banks. The three parties have all at different times referred to the need for dialogue between the parties, management, and unions in order to solve the country's serious economic and financial problems. Undoubtedly the next government will have to come to some form of understanding with the powerful Communist-backed unions.

In the last general elections in 1980 the PSD, CDS and small Monarchist Party ran under the Democratic Alliance banner and gained 44.91 per cent of the vote, followed by the Socialists with 26.65 per cent and the Communists with 16.75 per cent.

This time, with all the parties running separately it is unlikely that any one party will come through with a clear majority, although it is generally felt that the Socialists could obtain the largest share of the vote.

Their announced aim is an overall majority, but they realistically hope for about 37 per cent. The real battle, therefore, could begin after the election, with the need to form governing coalitions.

The Communist Party election slogan states that they should be in the government.

The ex-members of the now-extinct parliamentary watchdog, "The Council of the Revolution" have formed an association open to all military personnel who want to keep the ideals of the 1974 revolution alive. Present membership totals more than 1,300.



Best foot forward: Richard Crane, from Cumbria, two days out from Darjeeling, West Bengal, where he and his brother, Adrian, began their attempt to run the 2,500-mile length of the Himalayas on March 18.

## 1,000 Punjab Sikhs held to forestall protests

Delhi (Reuters)-Police in the north Indian state of Punjab have arrested more than 1,000 Sikh militants to forestall protests to back demands for political and religious concessions. Police said they would mount a big security operation today to keep Punjab's roads open and paramilitary units have been stationed at many points.

Thousands of Sikh demonstrators plan a road blockade in the latest phase of a protest movement headed by the regional Akali Dal party to press the central Government for religious and political concessions.

He said Akali volunteers would block main roads by sitting on the highways and reciting Sikh scriptures.

In Upper Assam seven people were killed and 13 injured when police fired on an armed crowd of 500 which tried to attack a refugee camp. Several police were injured.

## Post haste in Tolstoy's day

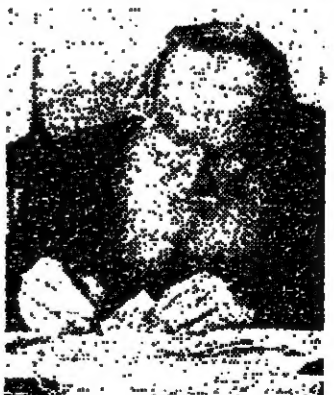
From Richard Owen  
Moscow

Russians, like everyone else, constantly complain that things are not what they used to be. The fact is that whether under Stalin or under the Tsars, things were on the whole a great deal worse and the official view that things are getting better all the time is not unfounded, given the abysmal starting point.

None the less, Russians still talk as if there was a golden age in which eggs tasted of eggs and ice cream of ice cream, the trains ran on time and letters arrived the day after you posted them.

The newspaper *Literaturnaya Gazeta* has just proved them right, at least on the last point. It has published the results of a survey on postal deliveries which prove beyond all shadow of doubt that the service has markedly deteriorated since the time of Tolstoy, at the turn of the century.

The much-maligned Tsarist system, it appears, managed regularly to get a letter from Moscow to St Petersburg (now Leningrad) in two days. Tolstoy used to write to the Petersburg library from his Moscow home and in 1900 could count on a swift delivery and response.



Leo Tolstoy: Writing one of his many letters.

*Literaturnaya Gazeta* conducted an experiment which showed that a similar letter sent today takes at least four days to get to Leningrad. Ah, the Leningrad post office said when confronted with this discrepancy, but Tolstoy was a famous writer, and a count to boot. He must have used special channels.

Not so, the paper said, and numerous readers wrote in to say that their family archives proved that the Tsarist postal system had been just as efficient in the case of ordinary citizens.

## Real Ale knocks the fizz out of US beer

From Christopher Thomas  
New York

There is a pale, highly carbonated fizz much loved by Americans that goes under the name of beer, a substance of deceptive strength served with a guaranteed headache in every glass.

As they gather in the dim, and often dismal, New York bars expatriate Brits are much given to severe bouts of nostalgia about the Bass, San Smith's, Old Peculiar and Marston's of their youth.

To some, it seems like a betrayal to dip one's nose into the deep, unenticing cold froth of a Budweiser or a Michelob. Americans, of course, have never known anything better but they are not entirely beyond redemption, as evidenced by the first upsurge in home brewing since prohibition.

There is, however, an even more momentous development - Real Ale has arrived in the US.

There have always been tiny corners of civilization where the proper stuff has been brewed; but in general the US had been bereft. Suddenly a significant number of small breweries, known for reasons of doubtful origin as boutiques, have begun producing traditional beer - or, at least, a respectable version of it.

Prohibition has a lot to answer for. Before that ridiculous experiment America boasted 1,600 breweries, producing a wide variety of gassy but different tasting beers. Only 750 reopened afterwards, a figure that was nearly halved by the mid-1940's in a series of mergers, takeovers and closures.

Within 30 years there were barely 70 breweries left and now the figure is 43, most of them producing a brew so similar you would think the industry had got together and standardized the stuff.

One of the most successful of the new wave breweries is the Independent Ale Brewery in Seattle, Washington State, whose Red Hook ale is turning up at bars and restaurants throughout Washington, Oregon and Alaska. In deference to British Real Ale, it is mostly served in pint glasses at the extremely reasonable price of \$1.75 (about £1.20), that compares with a price of \$1.80 or thereabouts for a 12 oz bottle of normal American beer in a normal American bar.

Mr Paul Shipman, one of the founders of the Independent Ale Brewery, said American beer has been getting more and more tasteless for at least 30 years because the big breweries have tried to appeal to an increasingly broad market.

His biggest problem is how to educate Americans about real ale, to convince them that for generations they have been drinking insipid rubbish. "Red Hook sells very well among people who were already real ale fans but we still find a lot of people do not understand what it is all about," Mr Shipman said.

The principal target of his brewery's campaign is Watney's Red Barrel, which fought a valiant but losing battle with Camra (the Campaign for Real Ale) in Britain and is now, according to Mr Shipman, being displaced by Red Hook in a number of establishments in the American North-West.

There are several counts on which Red Hook would fail a Camra test. Mr Shipman conceded; but he is confident that the problems will be overcome. For example it is conditioned in tanks, not casks. Even more seriously, it is pressured with carbon dioxide because beer pumps are not available anywhere in the United States. Besides which, some customers complained that without the gas the beer seemed flat.

"We are looking into that one," Shipman promised. "We may import pumps from England. We are determined eventually to reach standards that Camra would accept. Somehow we have to teach Americans that they are drinking over-cold, tasteless beer."

Letters between towns in European Russia should take three days to reach their destination, but the paper said even this generous provision was not observed. Almost all letters were delayed, the report said, in some cases for a week or more.

The paper published a list of deadlines issued by the Soviet Ministry of Communications and said that most of them were not met. Letters posted to another address in the same town or city are supposed to reach the addressee the following morning, but rarely do.

Letters between towns in European Russia should take three days to reach their destination, but the paper said even this generous provision was not observed. Almost all letters were delayed, the report said, in some cases for a week or more.

The paper said that the Soviet post office did not on the whole lose letters, and that mail was conscientiously and cheerfully delivered, eventually. When it wrote to the head of the postal service at the Ministry of Communications to ask for an explanation of the delays, however, it received no reply.

It turned out that the letter had been lost in the post. Either that, the paper commented, or not to talk about it publicly and finds it easier to blame his own deteriorating service for "mis-laying" an unwellcome piece of mail.



## Reagan policy attacked as waves of Germans protest against the bomb

A prominent Social Democrat told thousands of anti-nuclear demonstrators over the Easter weekend that the American concept of strategy was "idiotic" and "a counsel of absolute madness".

Herr Oskar Lafontaine, chairman of the Saarland SPD and a member of the party's national executive, again called into question German membership of Nato, saying American security policy had undermined the basis of Nato's existence. Last week he said President Reagan was mad and urged his country to leave Nato. His remarks were quickly repudiated by Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, the SPD leader.

A rally in Duisburg in Saturday, Herr Lafontaine again called for opposition to any attempt to make Germany "a nuclear battlefield" and accused the Americans of an "irresponsible policy of overarmament".

He said Washington's new defence proposals shook the basis of the previous policy of deterrence, which rested on the assurance of a second strike. The United States now wanted "clear military-strategic superiority" he added, whoever approved the deployment of Pershing 2 missiles in the Federal Republic was "offering our people as hostages for each

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

American adventure in the Third World".

His remarks are likely to provoke another storm of controversy. Last week government supporters pointed to the comments as evidence that the Social Democrats had abandoned their previous defence policies and support of the Nato Alliance.

Thousands of West Germans took part in marches and demonstrations throughout the country yesterday but few incidents were reported.

Demonstrators continued to blockade American military bases in Southern Germany, sitting down in access roads outside sites where they say the new Pershing 2 missiles are to be deployed in the autumn.

At Neu-Ulm, police carried away up to 200 people, including a leading anti-nuclear campaigner and newly-elected member of parliament for the Greens, former General Gert Bastian, who left the German Army in 1980 in opposition to the Nato deployment decision. A big rally was planned for the evening outside the Wiley Barracks, where the blockade began on Good Friday.

About 19 protest actions were held in Bavaria, with motor cavalcades and rallies outside Nato bases and munitions depots. Marches, beginning at

various points and converging on Nuremberg, were held in Northern Bavaria, and in neighbouring Baden-Württemberg protesters surrounded American bases.

The only major incidents occurred in West Berlin, where several hundred protesters who had not registered their demonstration with the police attempted to blockade the American radar station in the British sector of the city about 60 were arrested, mostly young people. Last week the British military commandant issued a ban on all demonstrations within a specified distance of military installations in the British sector.

On Saturday members of the alternative Berlin "Scene", who are not directly connected with the official peace movement, tried to hold up traffic in the city centre and hinder shoppers. Nineteen people were arrested on charges of theft, damage to property and breach of the peace.

Today the peace movement in the city is holding a march, to end at the Airlift Square, where clergy and prominent left-wingers will address a rally. A spokesman for the organizers said only about 10,000 to 20,000 people were expected because of the poor weather and the large number of people on holiday.

## CIA arming enemies of Sandinistas

By Our Foreign Staff

The US Central Intelligence Agency has spent millions of dollars on training and arming opponents of Nicaragua's left-wing Sandinista Government, and is deeply involved in supplying the insurgents with military intelligence, sabotage equipment, investigations by the New York Times and Newsweek magazine have disclosed.

Fighting between the Honduras-based insurgents and the Nicaraguan Army has continued into northern Nicaragua over Easter, according to officials in Managua. Both sides claim that the intensifying conflict has taken several hundred lives in recent weeks.

The United States has been strongly criticized at the United Nations for its covert support for national guardsmen of General Anastasio Somoza, the late Nicaraguan dictator, and disaffected former Sandinistas now conducting raids from Honduras into several Nicaraguan provinces.

According to Newsweek, the CIA has spent \$30m (£20m) on arming and training the Nicaraguan exiles, including \$11m from a secret fund. A correspondent on patrol with the insurgents said they were using American-made field radios and carrying Belgian-made rifles of a type formerly used by the Honduran Army.

Quoting a Honduran informant recently involved in joint military planning with the United States, the New York Times said that more than 50 American military advisers trained rebel units in Honduras last year.

It added that the United States was providing frequent intelligence reports to the insurgents on movements of Nicaraguan troops, artillery and tanks, and had also given underwater equipment and explosives to sabotage teams sent into Nicaragua early this year.

The United States was also behind air shipments of arms and ammunition in August, 1982, to Miskito Indians in eastern Honduras, where thousands have fled under pressure from the Nicaraguan Government, which accuses the Indians of aiding subversion.

Nicaragua's treatment of the Indians, whose ancestral lands lie across the border, was criticized last week by several Western countries, including Britain, at the UN Human Rights Committee, which questioned the arrest and killing of hundreds of Miskito Indians by the Sandinista Government.

The committee also questioned the alleged use of torture by the regime, the abuse of some clergyman, the antisemitic campaign which forced Nicaragua's small Jewish community to flee, the enforcement of curbs on the press, judiciary and political parties and the driving of democratic opponents into exile.

While the United States encourages the democratic element among the insurgents, the Nicaraguan regime for its part downplays the extent of domestic

## Song but no dance in Sun City

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The racial realities of South Africa intruded unexpectedly and uncomfortably into the showbiz glitter of the opening night performance by the touring American singing group Sha-Na-Na at the Sun City Superbowl in Bophuthatswana last week.

The group's only black singer, Denny Greene, stormed off the stage after he had invited four white women from the audience to partner him in a "dance contest" number and had been turned down by each one. The rest of the group found no such reluctance.

Another member of the group, Jon "Bowler" Bauman, tried to go on with the show to shouts of "where's Greene?" from the audience. "If somebody would dance with de guy maybe he'd come back", Bauman finally suggested, somewhat non-plussed.

Eventually a young girl volunteered to steel herself to the ordeal, but Greene declined to reappear. He said afterwards: "I don't need one Caucasian to intermediate between me and another Caucasian before some body will dance with me. I can't tolerate racism. It's totally wrong and I'm not going to play the game."

Commenting generally on South Africa, Greene observed: "Basically there's no inter-racial anything. It's a very sick situation. That's why I opted not to deal with South Africa. It's too retarded and primitive for me."

## China and Albania edge towards understanding

From Densa Trevisan, Belgrade

Trade relations between Albania and China may be resumed after a recent discreet visit to Tirana by a Chinese trade delegation.

Relations have been strained between the two countries for the past five years, since Albania launched a vicious attack on China, which responded by withdrawing several thousand experts and stopped all its aid.

The visit was kept away from the public eye but it was reported by the Yugoslav newspaper Politika, whose Peking correspondent quoted Chinese sources.

The scope of the talks was limited to economics, but its wider political context is clear. Albania is arousing increased interest both in Moscow and Washington, and it suggests that China does not wish to be left behind, especially as, unlike the other two, it has maintained diplomatic relations.

Recent Albanian statements have emphasized that ideological differences, and the fact that Albania regards China as a capitalist country should not stand in the way of economic relations.

Moscow recently renewed its offer to resume diplomatic relations, broken off in 1961, but Tirana once again rejected the approach outright. Washington never went as far, but feelings were obviously being put out in newspaper reports

Many people would say that Greene, and Sha-Na-Na, should have known better, particularly as it was their second visit to Sun City. The incident nicely illustrates the mixture of naivety, cynicism and financial greed which brings highly paid foreign stars to Sun City.

Bophuthatswana is one of the four "independent" tribal states created by South Africa in pursuit of its long-term goal of stripping all blacks of their South African citizenship. The Sun City complex is run as a 50-50 venture by the Bophuthatswana Government and a South African hotel chain.

Only two and a half hours drive north west of Johannesburg, Sun City offers not only the superbowl but also the attractions of legal gambling and sex across the colour line, both of which are forbidden in white-ruled South Africa. The superbowl audiences are mainly white.

Lured by the prospect of making lots of money in a short time in an exotic climate, many foreign stars - Frank Sinatra, Liza Minelli and Shirley Bassey have been among Sun City's top name catches - easily allow themselves to be persuaded that Bophuthatswana is a genuinely independent black-ruled state.

The reaction to Greene's invitation to dance is not surprising in the South African context. Inter-racial dancing - and presumably because of the sexual possibilities which it suggests, is banned



Urbi et orbi: The Pope blessing the crowd in Rome yesterday. He spoke in 44 languages.

## Pope says Mass for 100,000 pilgrims and warns on nuclear threat

From John Karle, Rome

The Pope, in his Easter message yesterday, affirmed mankind's need of Christ and the Church in a world threatened by ill and disasters, both natural and caused by man. His message was delivered from the balcony of St Peter's Basilica after a 90-minute Mass to more than 100,000 pilgrims, who braved showers and squalls which turned umbrellas inside out and rocked the metal framework of the canopy above a specially erected altar in the square.

The Pope called on mankind to submit itself to Christ's power and, in an evident reference to the nuclear threat, said: "The more you notice the horror of death on the horizon of your history, submit yourselves the more fully to His power."

He emphasized the Roman Catholic Church's involvement in supporting all those who were suffering. He listed various categories of sufferers - the poor, the hungry, refugees, the imprisoned and tortured, the kidnapped, those threatened by

violence and civil war, the victims of disasters, the unemployed, the sick and the aged - reiterating each time: "We are with you."

He ended by giving Easter greetings in 44 languages, as well as in some less widely spoken tongues such as Maltese, Irish and Romanian. The last and longest greeting was a message of hope in his own Polish, during which he said: "God puts Himself on the side of man. In His love, He gives him life, and he gives him back freedom and dignity. Wipe your tears, all you who weep."

### The lie that man is a god

The existence of totalitarian states like South Africa and the Soviet Union springs from man's belief in the lie that he is a god, the Archbishop of Canterbury said in his Easter sermon yesterday, the Press Association reports.

But that same environment had led to Christians in both countries finding a new faith in the resurrection. Dr Robert Runcie told the Easter Sunday congregation at Canterbury Cathedral.

He said men had always been tempted to live out the lie that they were gods, and the West was nearing the end of an historical period in which there had been a "particularly vigorous" attempt to assert that the sun should orbit around us.

"Tragically, man's progress towards god-like management of his fellows and of nature itself has, in our own day, culminated in the unleashing of seemingly unmanageable forces," he said.

"Nuclear weapons and the horrifying prospect of nuclear warfare are, of course, the most eloquent symbol of this tragic development. But the tragedy can also be seen in the capacity of totalitarian states to subject their subjects to previously undreamt of manipulation and social

engineering which no moral wisdom can possibly control or justify."

● WARSAW: The Polish Primate, Cardinal Jozef Glemp, who appears to be avoiding church-state controversies before the Pope's visit in June, issued a brief and cautious Easter address, Reuters reports.

He refrained from direct criticism of the Communist authorities voiced by less senior clergy and confined himself to a religious theme that all believers had "joy, hope and courage stemming from the resurrection".

● PEKING: More than 10,000 Catholics took part in religious ceremonies here during Holy Week, AFP reports.

About 8,000 Catholics saw the culmination of the week's activities, Easter Sunday Mass, celebrated by the Bishop of Peking, Right Rev Michael Fu Tieshan, at the Nantang Cathedral, the Immaculate Conception.

Dr Blanch, page 10

## Mrs Bhutto in Britain for private visit

Begum Nusrat Bhutto, widow of the former Pakistan Prime Minister, who was executed exactly four years ago today, has arrived in Britain on a private visit, Henry Stanhope writes.

She was recently allowed to leave Pakistan after doctors said that she needed treatment overseas for suspected cancer.

The Home Office said that Mrs Bhutto, who succeeded her husband as leader of the People's Party in Pakistan, staying in Britain for between three and six months. She is believed to have arrived in London 10 days ago.

## Spanish praise for Thatcher

Madrid - Mrs Thatcher has been praised as a true statesman by Senor Fernando Moran, the Spanish Foreign Minister, who however recommended that Britain should try to improve its relations with Spain by taking a more flexible attitude over Gibraltar, Richard Wigg writes.

Senor Moran said that Mrs Thatcher, whom he met in London last month had displayed "great national spirit" which had been enhanced by the Falklands crisis.

## China to barter with Russia

Peking (Reuters) - China and the Soviet Union will soon sign a border trade agreement, their first for about 20 years. The two countries agreed to sign the treaty last October.

The trade is to be by barter. Border trade is conducted by provincial rather than national officials.

## Boeing scare

Hongkong (AP) - A British Airways Boeing 747 made an emergency landing at Hongkong last night after developing engine trouble. The jet carrying 16 crew and 158 passengers, had left Hongkong for London when one of the engines malfunctioned. The aircraft returned and no one was injured.

## Lippizaner foal

Fiber (AP) - One of three Austrian Lippizaner brood mares receiving interferon against a killer epidemic has given birth to a healthy foal. Thirty-four horses at the Lippizaner stud farm have died from equine rhino-pneumitis, a herpes-induced virus.

## \$6m gold haul

New York (Reuters) - Thieves using a sledgehammer smashed their way into a jewelry store here and stole more than 900lb of gold chain valued at about \$6m (£4m).

## Gulf alert

Marina (AFP) - The return of the north wind is threatening to drive a series of oil slicks the size of Belgium towards six Gulf countries. Oil is sighted six miles from Qatar yesterday.

## Train strike

Lisbon (Reuters) - Portugal's striking train drivers have proclaimed an indefinite stoppage to protest against the Government's attempt to dismiss drivers who had refused to maintain a skeleton service.

## Lashing offence

Maputo (AP) - Mozambique has introduced public floggings for subversion. People found guilty of "crime against the security of the people and people's state" can be publicly lashed up to 30 times.

## Quake panic

San Jose (AP) - An earthquake in Costa Rica caused confusion, panic and minor damage in the capital, where about 300 people were treated for shock.

## Grand prix riot

Sydney (AP) - Sixteen police were taken to hospital after seven hours of rioting at the Australian motor cycle Grand Prix at Bathurst, west of Sydney. Molotov cocktails and bottles filled with gravel were thrown at the police. Seventy people were arrested.

## Malaysia ends British boycott

From David Watts, Singapore

Malaysia has dropped its "buy British last" policy. Government departments have been told to resume purchases of British goods in the normal way and the Prime Minister's Office will no longer vet Government contracts to see if there is an alternative to a British purchase.

The announcement came from Danuk Seri Dr Mahatir Mohamad, the Prime Minister, 18 months after the policy was introduced after a series of real and imagined slights by the British against the Malaysians.

But the Prime Minister, who dined with Mrs Margaret Thatcher earlier this year as part of the process of improving relations with Britain, made it clear in his announcement that the change was as much due to the competitive pricing of British goods as to the improvement in the atmosphere between the two countries.

He told a Malaysian political gathering in Kuala Lumpur: "It has been found that British goods are now relatively cheaper than before following the decline of the British pound and it is only logical that British goods and services should be bought if they are of good quality." This was an indication that the Malaysian leader was keen to find thoroughly practical reasons for going back on his policy for a number of domestic reasons.

Much will depend upon how civil servants implement the policy and whether or not they see further advantage in taking digs at the British lion.

## Passions run high in Jerusalem

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Scores of undercover Israeli policemen and agents of Shin Bet, the local equivalent of MI5, attempted to mingle inconspicuously with the tens of thousands of Christian pilgrims gathered over the Easter weekend in the walled city of Jerusalem - conquered by Israel in 1967.

Their mission was to counter well-publicised threats by Jewish extremists to hold illegal Passover prayers on the Holy Temple Mount.

Less subtly disguised were the scores of young Palestinians recruited by Muslim religious leaders to guard the sacred plot over the holiday period.

Although the normally tranquil 25-acre site does not include the main holy places associated with Easter, it has become the focal point for the tension between Arabs and Jews in the Holy Land because, as well as being the location of the first and second temples of the Jews, it contains the Dome of the Rock and the al Aqsa mosque, the third most revered Islamic shrine after Mecca and Medina.

The threat by the fringe Israeli group known as Netemai Har Habayit (the faithful of the Temple Mount) to make one of their periodic attempts to pray in the sacred area was treated particularly seriously because Easter Sunday was the first anniversary of the traumatic morning a year ago when an Israeli soldier went berserk with a rifle, killing two Palestinians and wounding many more.



Easter patrol: Armed Israeli soldiers watching crowds of pilgrims and tourists in the Old City of Jerusalem.

The retributions of that attack are still being felt in relations between Jews and Arabs, both within Israel and in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The fear, verging on paranoia among Muslims, that Jewish extremists one day will take over their holy site, an attempt to rebuild the temple on the spot from where Muhammad ascended to heaven was reinforced last month, when about 40 militant Jews attempted to penetrate the

Mount via an underground passage and build a symbolic settlement on it.

It is nearly impossible to convey to outsiders the depth of Arab passion which such Jewish efforts to gain a foothold on the Mount (known to the Arabs as al Haram al Shريف, or the Noble Enclosure) can cause. In the deteriorating security situation that passion has fused with national sentiment to form an explosive mixture which, some observers believe, could one day lead to a holy war.

## Two faces of Argentina's remembrance day

From Andrew Thompson, Buenos Aires

Argentina today marks the first anniversary of the invasion of the Falkland Islands with official ceremonies to honour the servicemen who died.

April 2 was declared a national holiday, but as the anniversary this year coincided with Easter celebrations, the official commemoration was moved to today. The main event will be a short Mass at the Stella Maris Church, seat of the military vicariate, which will be attended by members of the three-man military junta, the President, and other authorities.

There will also be ceremonies to honour the dead in cities across the country from which conscripts and officers were sent to the islands.

A series of unofficial events took place on Saturday. About 500 people took part in a rally organized by the Centre of Malvinas (Falklands) War Vet-

erans in Air Force Square (previously known as Englishmen's Square) in central Buenos Aires.

The rally had been banned by the police, but it went ahead without incident. The war veterans burnt British and US flags and effigies representing Senor Jose Martinez de Hoz, former Economy Minister, and a British soldier (wearing a badge which read "CIA").

They chanted slogans against the military regime, called for a full investigation of the handling of the war and demanded improved assistance for veterans.

The anniversary has also been marked by a series of public statements by military figures, Government officials, and politicians. Most attention has centred on statements by General Leopoldo Galtieri, the former President, and by Senor

Nicenor Costa Mendez, the former Foreign Minister.

An interview with General Galtieri was published on Saturday by the mass circulation daily, Clarin. In it, the former President said that the decision to invade the Falklands was taken in January, 1982, and that Senor Carlos Ortiz de Rosas, the Argentine Ambassador in London, was informed in February.

"He told me that, if we were going to invade, we would have to ensure that none of the English people on the islands would be hurt, not even by twisting an ankle. We almost ordered our troops to invade without live ammunition."

General Galtieri agreed that the war communiques had been "triumphalist". "I myself was surprised when I was given the news that Puerto Argentino (Port Stanley) had fallen."

Senor Costa Mendez said that the occupation of the islands had been carried out with a view to a negotiated solution with Britain.

"We fought for that possibility up to the last moment," he claimed, adding that "if the mediation by (US Secretary of State Alexander) Haig had started on March 30 instead of April 6, there would not have been a war."

Among other public statements, Admiral Ruben Franco, the current Navy commander, said that "the exploit which began on April 2 has not ended... The day will come when an Argentine hand will raise our flag forever in the exact place where our men made history."

● NEW YORK: The US Navy Department has paid glowing tribute to the intelligence, discipline and training of

British troops during the Falklands war, Christopher Thomas writes.

They "demonstrated an almost uniformly high standard of skill and performance" in terrible weather conditions, it said in a report entitled Lessons of the Falklands.

The report quotes American and Military analysts as saying that British stamina and enterprising played a vital role in the victory over numerically superior Argentine forces.

In contrast, the Argentine forces committed "major failures" in staff planning and logistic support. As a result the Argentine "troops, although more numerous and in some respects better armed than the British ground forces, failed to form an effective fighting force, despite the bravery of Argentine pilots."

## Prince finds his polo is rusty

From Granita Forbes, PA Court Correspondent, Sydney

A meeting with an old flatmate brightened up the day for the Princess of Wales yesterday, when she went to wet and chilly Sydney to watch her husband play polo.

The Prince and Princess came from the warm sunshine of Albany, where they attended an Easter service at St Matthew's Church, to the rain-soaked ground at Warwick Farm. The Prince was playing for the President's team.

The Princess met Miss Ann Bolton, aged 21, with whom she shared a Knightsbridge flat before her marriage.

It had rained very heavily overnight and more heavy showers made the ground sodden and treacherous. But the Prince gamely went ahead with the match, riding, appropriately, a polo pony called Kermit the Frog.

He played respectably and his team beat the opposition, Tanglewood North Coast, by nine goals to five.

The Prince said afterwards that he had not played polo for seven months, adding "which was not too obvious". He said the weather reminded him of a mid-summer day in Britain.

Looking flushed he said: "I found it a little too hard today and I was slightly behind the ball, but by next week I will be on top of it."

"I was only too pleased to bring my wife with me, who loyally watched her husband make a fool of himself."



## THE ARTS

Theatre  
Laying  
it on  
too  
thickColette O'Neill:  
wit and tendernessCommedia  
Lyric Studio,  
Hammersmith

Transferred from the Sheffield Crucible Studio in Michael Boyd's production which opened last November, Marcella Evaristi's play is about an exploited woman: the 52-year-old Elena, widowed quite a few years, who endures her grown-up family by her passionate affair with a left-wing intellectual 20 years her junior. Exploited, that is, twice over. Once by the smothering disciplines of Glasgow-Italian society with the Madonna at the back of its mind, which recognizes only the black-clad widow or the whore, without a place for a physically aware



woman in love; and once by the playwright.

Early on, daughter-in-law Gianna gives an alarming account of Italian widows crumbling from chic ladies to unkempt grannies practically overnight. The family do demand that of Elena, but the money they spend on extending her kitchen shows the humdrum domesticity they do expect of her. Finding her happy in Davide's Bologna flat, they brutally close ranks. At last Davide backs off, saying "I haven't the resources to extricate you from your purgatory", which leaves her to a future of occasional opera treats with Gianna (now herself widowed) and clearing her attic of untidy memories.

It should have been a very moving story, Elena's years as a good mother "turned every-

thing outside the front door into a different territory". Similarly with Gianna: her incessant nervous allergies are probably connected with marriage to Cesare, whose male-centred reactions are so ingrained that he cannot mention an aunt's suicide without adding "It nearly killed her husband, poor man".

And there is the trouble. Miss Evaristi is eloquent, inventive, bringing a whole little world to life. But she lays it all on so thick. The enormity of Elena's position is self-evident without overloading. But no: the family pair her up, not with a civilized man, who would have been too reasonable, but a fumbling old hotelier from Falkirk. They say her young clothes look absurd while the designer Roger Glossop is stylishly proving the opposite. Cesare is suddenly

killed by the Bologna station bomb while train-spotting, thus showing the danger of resurgent fascism and the basic little-boy-ishness of men at one stroke. And Davide, who is set on changing the world, declines the challenge of changing even a corner of it, though Elena tells him "You taught me every single thing was political".

The wit and tenderness of Colette O'Neill and Peter Wight make their affair both beautiful and believable. Janette Foggo finds the repressed, repressive Gianna full of comedy as well as pathos, and as the actor son Stefano, who has advanced into a glossier world without shedding any prejudices, James McKenna copes boldly with a character which only just works.

Anthony Masters

The Time of Your  
Life  
Other Place

They have finally built a bar at the Other Place. Now the bad news: it is only on the stage, which is sad since any bar run by John Thaw would probably be an entertaining place to be. But the bar he presides over as William Saroyan's character, Nick, is not really somewhere I would want many refills.

It is the sort of bar I always dreaded to find until I realized it seldom exists, outside the movies and the theatre: peopled entirely by lovable character parts, who come in not to have a drink but to tell us their life histories, hopes and fears and display the author's warm humanity. In Saroyan's printed version there are 27 of them.

At its habitual table, with his back to the San Francisco waterfront, is Joe (Daniel Massey), studying the world and its inhabitants, seeking and encouraging their innate goodness. Fortunately provided with infinite wealth, he pays rent for the starving, assures the newsboy that his singing voice is great, buys toys and candy, fixes a job for the innocent kid Tom who wants to marry the golden-hearted tart.

Saroyan once wrote (not of this work) "If this play can bore a man, I would like to know if any play could escape boring him... Here is a play as real as the modest suggestion that such critics would probably be bored by seeing Our Lord walk on the water.

The fallacy applies equally here. Making compelling drama

out of humble minutiae requires a special quality of either technical skill or natural genius. Saroyan did not have it but he had a number of things he would have done better without, including winsome sentimentality and a snuggly contempt for structure. The godfather proves nothing and when the evil police chief appears there is someone equally convenient to see him off.

Howard Davies's production is an exquisite showcase for RSC acting and directing. It also, I think deliberately, tones down the extreme, the roteness of the picture and the overdraw-ing of the characters. The newsboy (played with innocent spontaneity by Paul Spence) is not an undiscovered star; it is simply good that he should think so. Nor is Dudley, forever making frantic calls to his Elsie but ready to date the first wrong number, the grotesque that, Saroyan, a little patronizingly, describes: Miles Anderson makes him real, funny and pathetic. This clears the way for the one larger-than-life figure, Henry Goodman as Harry the "natural-born hoofer" (originally Gene Kelly's role).

Mr Massey's few extra years give Joe a useful maturity. His gentle irony helps so many of his lines, and he and the sweetly impulsive Paul Greenwood (Tom) play beautifully together. And as Kitty Duval, the two-dollar hooker dreaming of a country estate and a book of verse, beneath the bough, Zoë Wanamaker has just the right "delicate and rugged beauty"; she never tear-jerks, but she wrings the heart.

Anthony Masters

Dance: Northern Ballet  
A lot of musicParadise Lost  
RNCM, Manchester

Geoffrey Cauley's new three-act production for Northern Ballet Theatre is not based on Milton's poem. Up to that point, I can write with some assurance; but now, uncertainty begins.

We start, after a snatch of music by Bach, with a gentleman in a kind of scorched-looking black desert outfit. He stretches and poses while a soprano sings "Vissi d'arte". The programme tells us that he is Lucifer.

Adam and Eve appear: you can tell them by their pink body-tights. A black tribesman in body paint finds a flower bedded in sand, which Eve puts in her hair, and a crystal ball for Adam to gaze at. Thus equipped, the pair of them rapidly produce a large batch of similarly "naked" children, who stare at each other to some pietistic music (we have run through four composers so far, with another eight to come) until they are sent packing by a gentleman who must be an angel.

In Act II, Isadora Duncan dances to entertain a group of whores in fancy dress, two lovers in baby clothes, three young women in afternoon dresses and two gentlemen in white tie and tails. After that, a different Eve, in a long black dress, summoned by a whistle, dances an exhibition number

with Lucifer, before changing into something more comfortable to captivate a man in a white jacket who invents beauty products.

He resists her kisses and further blandishments, but she manages to steal his formula which is then passed to three sinister chaps during a rehearsal of *Les Sylphides* in which Eve mark II shocks the corps de ballet by wearing a semi-transparent body-suit. This enables the Bomb to go off (incidentally filling the auditorium with disgusting smoke).

Act III has a group of survivors in protective clothes; once the white angel persuades one of them to remove some of her layers she becomes Eve mark III. Lucifer is apparently killed and everybody (Eve mark II watching contritely) joins in a celebration, but Lucifer is still alive hidden among the sand-bags.

The score is a mish-mash, ranging from Beethoven to Irving Berlin, from Parkin (who he?) to Ravel, and Cauley's choreography pays this music scant respect. I am sure that some serious intention lay behind this muddled nonsense, and with luck it will ring a bell for people who feel intensely but vaguely about Africa, pollution and disarmament.

I cannot pretend to have enjoyed it greatly, but at least it gave the dancers something different to do, and I certainly cannot say that I was ever bored.

John Percival

## Television

The expression of  
communal yearning

"Promise, hope, faith, fame" was the inspiration for the arrogant and quite untalented Kids from Fame (BBC 1), a clear case of the message overwhelming a frail medium. And not unlike *The Day Christ Died* (Channel 4), television's longest contribution to the Easter ceremonies in which the central role was played by someone apparently from the Bronx: it would have required more than a miracle to make him interesting. Even the sacrificial lambs looked bored, although I suspect that they were drugged.

When in 'the same film Eleanor Bron appeared as the Virgin Mary, people began losing their faith all over England - not in Christianity but in casting agents. Was Peter Ustinov playing God somewhere? I expect so, but I am not sure: I only saw him displaying his "versatility" in an embarrassing manner in *Imaginary Friends* (BBC 2). He played six roles, all of them as himself.

The South Bank Show (LWT) described the history of English choirs - from monastic plainchant to the Huddersfield Choral Society. To ask why people sing in this manner is rather like asking why people celebrate religious ceremonies of last weekend's kind: song embodies feelings and attitudes which could not otherwise be expressed, not simply on the level of individual hope and consolation but also that of communal yearnings - "All We Like Sheep Have Gone Astray".

Collective song is more than the sum of the individual voices simply because it does represent a collective endeavour - the relationship between people is as important as the people themselves. Evangelist preachers encouraged choral singing in the newly industrialized areas of the nineteenth century because it offered a relief from such grim surroundings; but I suspect that such societies flourished in the expectation that the common human energy involved might one day transform those surroundings also.

For once, in a programme about music, the pictures complemented the music. And indeed, by showing the ancient

cathedrals and the rapt faces from which that music springs, they actually enhanced it. By confirming, also, the historical continuity of the choral form and the music which sustains it, we got much closer to the spirit of religious celebration and triumph than in any of the celluloid piety offered by the other networks.

But the most notable production over Easter has to be that of *King Lear* (Channel 4). It was billed as being "presented by" Laurence Olivier and, really, he might have written it as well. The sight of him, at the age of 75, being drowned by hundreds of gallons of cold water was enough to obliterate any memory of Shakespeare himself. Olivier hardly blinked in the deluge; he moved from tribal chieftain to madman and then to tragic hero simply by altering the timbre of his voice.

The face is astonishingly smooth, like that of an infant; which is appropriate enough, since he seems new-born in each part he plays - discovering his emotions only in the act of expressing them. As he speaks, his eyes flicker from side to side as if the world were altogether out of focus, as if nothing were real outside himself.

It was an extraordinary performance, and his abilities not only outpaced those of the other distinguished performers but also, perhaps fortunately, obscured the limitations of yet another television adaptation of Shakespeare. The problem is that the camera creates a space quite different from that of the stage: declamation and spectacle are forced to give way to intimacy and naturalism. In such an area, Shakespeare's rhodomontade has no place and scenes like that of Edgar's madness, for example, come close to burlesque as a result.

Nevertheless, Olivier's shadow passed over everything so that we could hardly see the faults. Although he does not have the power to move, he has the power to amaze - and that was characteristic of last night's production.

Peter Ackroyd

## Dance: Royal Ballet

## Enjoyment for all

La Fille mal gardée  
Covent Garden

I wonder whether, when he created *La Fille mal gardée* 23 years ago, Frederick Ashton had any idea how popular and enduring his pretty daughter would prove to be. It must be the best known of any of the works made for the Royal Ballet and is danced by local companies in places as far apart as Budapest and San Francisco.

At Saturday's Midland Bank prom performance at the Royal Opera House the ballet was enthusiastically received. Ashton has provided something to delight everyone: humour, pathos, romance, virtuosity and some of his most beautiful dances. No matter how many times one sees the ballet there is always something to enjoy, and I invariably leave the theatre feeling better than when I went in.

Saturday marked Stephen Beagley's debut as Colas. Small, neat and good looking, and possessed of considerable tech-

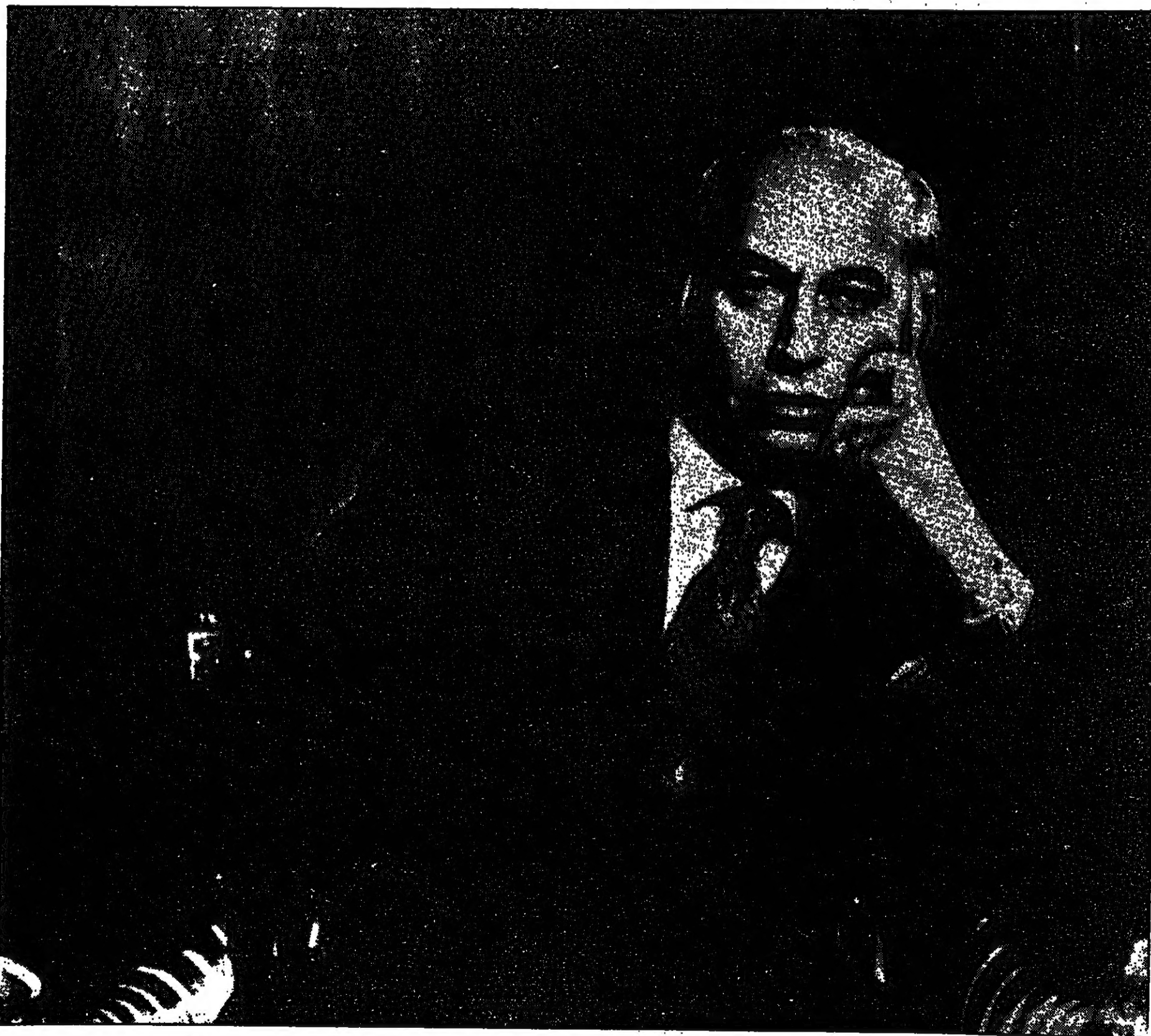
nical facility, Beagley is one of the Royal Ballet's coming men. If he has had a problem, it is the lack of a strong 51-30 personality.

On Saturday he established himself as a character from the first moment: aggressive, good humoured and the obvious candidate for Lisa's hand. I liked the way he marked the point in Act II where the ballet's theme changes from light-hearted romance to marriage and the building of life together, and he found some original touches of humour. The fiendishly difficult solos appeared to give him some trouble, but more performances should bring greater confidence.

I could have wished for a greater rapport with his partner, but Wendy Ellis's broad rendering of Lisa appeared to have little in common with the rounded character Beagley was trying to create. Oliver Symons plays the Widow strictly in the pantomime tradition, and on those terms he gives a good performance.

Judith Cruickshank

## ADVERTISEMENT

In memory of martyred Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto  
1928-1979

"The people of Pakistan will never let me down. I have served them faithfully in every part of the country"

In memory of Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto a great leader who served his people tirelessly and gave them a sense of belonging, dignity and a ray of hope.

His status is safe in the custody of the people of Pakistan. We can never forget this courageous leader who continues to lead his people today.

We love you, and you will always live in our memory and our hearts.

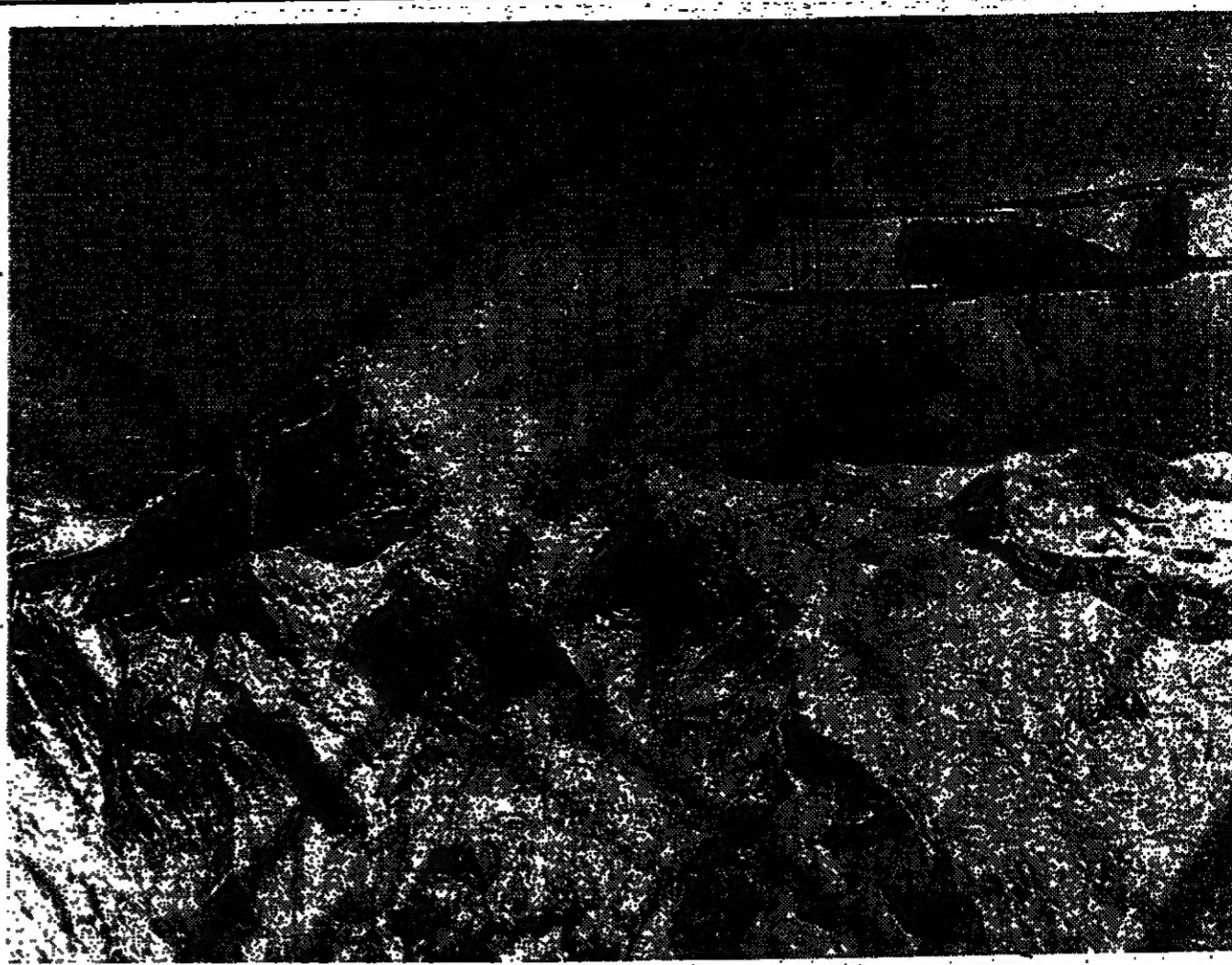
From friends and admirers of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, first elected Prime Minister of Pakistan.

c/o 15 Comber House, Comber Grove, London SE5



## SPECTRUM

Fifty years ago this week, men looked down for the first time on the top of the world's highest mountain. An expedition led by the intrepid young Marquis of Clydesdale - the MP for East Renfrewshire and a passionate aviator - succeeded, against great danger, in flying over the summit of Everest. Proposed by the author and MP John Buchan, sponsored by the patriotic Lady Houston, blessed by the India Office, the Air Ministry and the Royal Geographical Society, supported by various arms of British industry, the adventure was meticulously prepared. Clydesdale and Flt-Lt David McIntyre piloted the two specially-built aircraft; their observers, charged with photographing the unscaled peak, were Col Stewart Blacker and Mr Bonnett of the Gaumont-British film company. Among those accompanying them to India was the Air Correspondent of *The Times*, which later struck a commemorative medallion (above left). Setting off from Heston aerodrome on February 16, 1933, the party arrived at their base camp in Purnea on March 22. The story of the flight 12 days later is told by Clydesdale's son, Lord James Douglas-Hamilton



## Flying to the roof of the world

At the aerodrome the canvas hangars were opened and the aircraft were pushed on to the landing strip. The cameras were fitted, the oxygen cylinders were installed and connected, and the engines, airframes and rigging were tested. The pilots and observers climbed into their suits, ensuring that their straps, oxygen pipes and heating cables were in position. For an hour they waited in suspense and excitement for their journey into the unknown.

The wind levels, they were told, were 67 mph at 28,000 ft and 58 mph at 30,000 ft. Earlier on it had been laid down that there should be no attempt to fly over Everest if the winds were above 40 mph: the stronger the wind, the more fuel would be consumed. But the flight was not automatically ruled by this information, since it was the first time that they had found the wind to be below 100 mph. After making some calculations, McIntyre announced that if the aircraft were able to stay some 15 minutes in the vicinity of Everest, in the face of a 67 mph wind from the west, they could just have enough fuel to return. If they waited for better conditions, they might have to wait a long time; such an opportunity might not come again, with the monsoon about to arrive. After careful consideration the flight was authorized.

The cameras were loaded and the giant engines were started. A dramatic and optimistic touch was introduced by handing up to Bonnett the Everest mail, letters intimating the expedition's success to King George V, the Prince of Wales and Lady Houston. Geoffrey Barkas, the film director, anxious to miss nothing, wished the pilots to take off in the best possible position for his filming. He wrote later: "I well remember the moment of departure, the pilots giving the signals for the chocks to be removed, the engines warming up, the shimmering heat-haze making the air quiver as we looked across the aerodrome, and the last view of Bonnett in one machine and Blacker in the other, goggled and masked, as they closed down the covers of the cockpit for the early part of the climb."

Both aircraft rose steadily and it was confirmed that all apparatus was functioning properly. Blacker and Bonnett had some 46 jobs to perform, none of which could be forgotten without risking the failure of the camera survey.

With much activity in the cockpits the two aeroplanes climbed into the dust haze. After 30 minutes they swung to the left, crossing the border of Nepal. At 10,000 ft, by a prearranged agreement McIntyre came close to Clydesdale's aircraft, signalled to him "All Correct" and received the same response in return. McIntyre, however, was slightly concerned about his survey cameras, and Clydesdale found that the intercom between himself and Blacker started buzzing as soon as it

was tested. The buzzing became annoying since neither of them could hear a word spoken by the other. They had to communicate by passing handwritten notes to each other.

As they climbed further to 16,000 ft the plains below became invisible, and they could only glimpse the foothills. Clydesdale opened up his engines to full power and at 19,000 ft both aircraft surfaced from the haze to witness an astounding sight some 50 miles away. "We found ourselves emerging into the most vividly clear atmosphere with unlimited visibility. The aeroplanes seemed to be enclosed within a semi-circle of the most gigantic mountains in the world. Just to the right of the aeroplane's nose as it rose clear of the muck, the summit of Mount Everest appeared with its plume, like the smoke of a volcano, stretching out to the east. The dust haze, completely obscuring the foothills, rose well above the snow line, with the result that this arc of great mountains appeared detached from the earth, and suggested an eerie land floating in a drab sea somewhere between earth and sky."

Clydesdale was finding difficulty with his oxygen. He had economized with the supply to be certain that there was plenty in reserve in case the flight over the summit took longer than anticipated. Blacker passed a note to Clydesdale requesting more oxygen, and at the same time Clydesdale felt his eyesight begin to fail. Suddenly he had a violent attack of cramp in both feet. He turned on the supply: after a number of deep breaths the cramp disappeared and he could see normally again.

The Houston-Westland climbed up to a height of 31,000 ft, and Clydesdale began to feel more relaxed. Then, only a few minutes from the summit, he had the most unpleasant reality of his life. He and McIntyre knew that in the lee of mountains there could be downdrafts, while on the other side the wind would be deflected upwards, with up currents near the summit. They had plotted this course with the aim of avoiding any possible downdrafts. However, there had been a strong wind from the west, and to their horror the truth dawned that they were approaching Everest on the leeward side, having been blown off course. Immediately the aircraft was sucked down towards the mountain.

Blacker, who was working hard with the cameras, recalled vividly what happened: "The scene was superb and beyond description. The visibility was extraordinary and permitted the whole range to be seen on the western horizon. I crouched down, struggling to open the hatchway, to take a photograph through the floor. Everything by now, all the metal parts of the machine, was chilled with the cold. The fastenings were stiff and the metal slides had almost seized. I struggled with them, and I squeezed my mask on to my face to get all the oxygen possible. Suddenly, with the door half-

open, I became aware, almost perceptibly, of a sensation of dropping through space.

"The floor of the machine was falling away below us. I grasped a fuselage strut and peered through my goggles at the altimeter needle. It crept, almost swung down though a couple of thousand feet. In this great down draught of the winds, it seemed as though we should never clear the crags of the South Peak on the way to Everest now towering above us."

McIntyre was, if anything, in an even worse position. The Westland Wallace had been climbing more slowly than the Westland Houston, owing to the extra weight of Bonnett's heavy cameras and film, and he estimated that the wind plume from Everest was streaking down the 12 mile range to Makalu with the force of a hurricane. A short time before, his aircraft had been higher than the summit; now he was at least 1,000 ft below the jagged mountain looking down on him.

"We were in a tremendous down-rush of air. Two thousand feet were lost before the down-rush cushioned

itself out on the glacier beds. I had the feeling that we were hemmed in on all sides, and that we dare not turn away to gain height afresh. A turn to the left meant going back into the down-current and the peaks below; a down-turn round to the right would have taken us almost instantly into Makalu at 200 miles per hour. There was nothing we could do but climb straight ahead and hope to clear the lowest point in the barrier range."

Clydesdale felt his aircraft being clawed downwards in the air current. He no longer flew by instruments but relied entirely on sight. Blacker had the hatchway open below him and could see the rock buttresses of the southern ridge coming closer and closer. Suddenly they passed over the southern peak by a few feet. Clydesdale would never say just how close he came to colliding with the mountain, other than to admit that it had been a more minute margin than he cared to think about then or ever.

McIntyre's problems were every bit as great. He could see that if he was to clear the east ridge, it would only be by the narrowest of margins: "A fortunate

up-current just short of the ridge carried us up by a few feet and we scraped over. The north-east ridge appeared to sweep us vertically from our port wing-tips to the summit, and we could see straight down the sheer north side to the glacier cradles at the base of Everest."

At that stage, in what he later described as "a mad risk", he had to circle slowly three times, crabbing over the ridge in order to gain sufficient height to make the attempt to fly over the summit. To complicate matters further, Bonnett had trouble with his oxygen. He was hard at work with the cameras, seemingly oblivious to the immense danger he was in each time the Wallace just cleared the ridge. As the aircraft flew towards the north side of Everest, Bonnett was filling his camera with film and trod on his oxygen pipe, fracturing it. Feeling weakness come over him, he subsided on to the floor, and with admirable coolness found the broken-feed pipe, binding his handkerchief around the fracture. He attempted to rise with his heavy camera but was overcome through lack of oxygen and fell down unconscious.

McIntyre saw Bonnett slip down and, disturbed at what had happened to him, resolved to fly over the summit photographing with the survey camera, and then to lose height so that Bonnett, if he was still alive, would have a good chance of recovering. As these thoughts passed through his mind, for the first time since entering the down draught he caught sight of Clydesdale's aircraft above and ahead of him, flying straight for the summit.

After just scraping over Lhotse Clydesdale flew through part of Everest's plume and experienced a considerable air bump, throwing the aircraft suddenly into an upward drift on the windward side of the mountain. The aircraft gained height quickly and with the engine at maximum power it surged over the top of Everest, clearing the summit at 10.05 am. Clydesdale would later say that after experiencing the awfulness of being swept down in the down draught, and only just escaping collision, entering the up draught was like being swept into heaven.

Blacker watched as the aeroplane "came to the curved chisel like summit of Everest, crossing it, so it seemed to me, just a hair's breadth over its menacing summit. The crest came up to meet me as I crouched peering through the floor, and I almost wondered whether the tail skid would strike the summit."

Blacker at these moments had his head and shoulders in the slipstream photographing over the tail, so anxious was he to see every possible view: "We swooped over the summit and a savage period of toil began. I crammed plate-holder after plate-holder into the camera, releasing the shutter as fast as I could, to line it on one wonderful scene after another. We were now for a few

moments in the very plume itself, and as we swung round fragments of ice rattled violently into the cockpit."

Clydesdale decided that the risk of continuing to fly relatively low above Everest was too great. His first impression, that Everest was not unlike some of the peaks in the Alps, over which he had flown in Switzerland, changed rapidly when he saw the glacier on the east and northern flanks of the north-east ridge, and realized he was seeing more than he had bargained for, "even on this mountain of mystery".

Blacker's oxygen pressure gauge showed signs of moving downwards, so he and Clydesdale knew that they only had a very short time to go in the vicinity of Everest. Clydesdale turned and moved slowly down the valley, rejoining McIntyre in the process. They had only been in the neighbourhood of the summit for 15 minutes. To Blacker it had seemed "like a lifetime from its amazing experiences and yet was all too short."

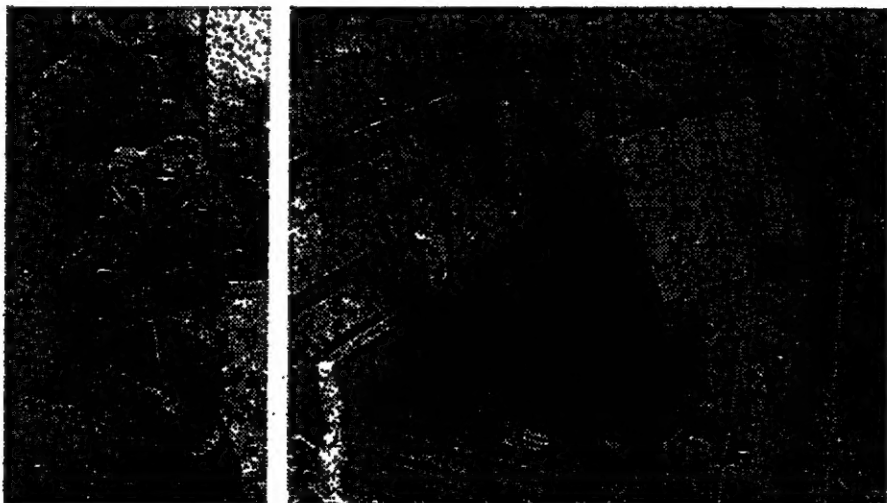
On flying over the summit of Everest McIntyre had thought that there was standing room for some four persons there; he lamented the fact that, with Bonnett unconscious, the survey camera had not been working. Whilst turning to look at Bonnett, McIntyre experienced freezing cold around his nose and mouth. He had swallowed his head so far to look that the oxygen feed in his mask had fallen off and lay on his knee. With great speed he put it back in place, and had to hold it there continually.

With only one hand at the controls McIntyre lost height as quickly as was safe, in the hope that Bonnett might not be dead. It was when he reached the height of 8,000 ft that his attention was attracted: "To my intense relief, Bonnett was struggling up from the floor tearing off mask and headgear. He was a nasty dark green shade but obviously alive and that was enough for the moment."

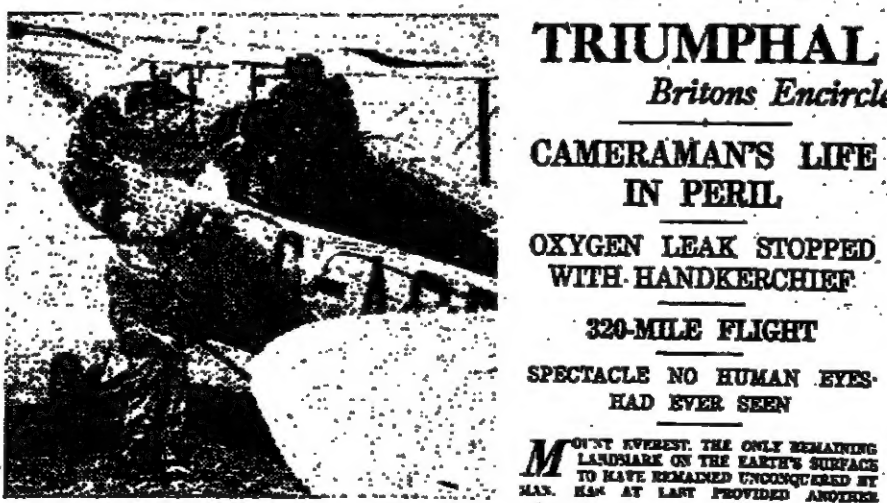
Some 20 minutes later, three hours after take-off, they appeared over Lalbahu in perfect formation, and completed a perfect landing, their great flight at an end. McIntyre had a heat blister on one of his hands where there had been overheating in the electrical wires of a glove, and Bonnett, clutching the broken oxygen pipe, was looked at by Dr Bennett. They hardly knew how lucky they were to be alive.

On landing they said nothing about the tremendous trials they had experienced at 30,000 ft. They wringed off their clothing, so infuriatingly hot on the ground, and left the cameras and aircraft with the mechanics. Overjoyed to be back, they made for the swimming pool. There the threat of flesh-eating crocodiles seemed as nothing in comparison to the stupendous challenge of flying over the world's highest mountain.

*Abridged from Roof of the World by Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, published by Mainstream on April 12.*



Left: Col Blacker is fitted with new high-altitude equipment for a test flight. Right: A crate containing one of the aircraft is unloaded at Karachi.



Left: Mail for the King, the Prince of Wales and Lady Houston is put on board. Right: British headlines rejoice in the revelations of a successful mission.

TRIUMPHAL  
Britons EncircleCAMERAMAN'S LIFE  
IN PERILOXYGEN LEAK STOPPED  
WITH HANDKERCHIEF

## 320-MILE FLIGHT

SPECTACLE NO HUMAN EYES  
HAD EVER SEEN

Mount Everest, the only remaining landmark on the earth's surface to have remained unexplored at sea level at last provided another

## A Bank Holiday to remember

## MOREOVER... Miles Kington

As an Easter Monday service to holidaymakers, I am pleased to present some of the more unusual events and attractions on show today.

The Lymeswold Blue and White Devils Air Display. This famous new team of free-fall artists will parachute out of the sky over Castle Cary, Wiltshire, at 3pm today. Each highly trained member of the team will be wearing a country smock or frock in the Lymeswold colours - the more daring members will be wearing extra large smocks and frocks, and no parachute. When they land, they will mingle with the crowd, selling holiday packs of Lymeswold, Britain's major export. In the final performance of the day, Maie - head maid of the aerobas - will attempt to butter an entire packet of Bath Olivers in mid-air and cover them with cheese before she lands.

Steam Radio Rally, High Wycombe. An all-day gathering for enthusiasts of the huge old steam radio, once a familiar item on the British landscape. There will be demonstrations of trying to receive Hilversum, reruns of the 1932 Derby and mass punting displays based on Owen Weller's classic *War of the Worlds* broadcast. At the end of the day Neville Chamberlain will declare war. Readers intending to visit this rally are advised to drive carefully down narrow country roads; an encounter with a massive pre-war steam radio requires extreme caution.

Exhibition of Lane Closures, M4, between Exits 2 & 4. The motorway police are laying on a special show for the public in order to make them feel more involved with the philosophy behind motorway closure and cone-laying. Motorists will be able to place cones in position,

themselves, wander at will down closed lanes and pick flowers on the hard shoulder. "We want them to feel it's their motorway," says a spokesman. "The event will probably cause motorway chaos, and people will no doubt drive like maniacs to get there, but then they would anyway."

Open Day at the Home Office Romanian Refugee Camp. A rare chance to see the secret hideaway in Essex where desperate Romanian refugees are kept prior to being returned to their country and prison. They are handcuffed and confined to a small area, partly to remind them of home, partly to change their minds about wanting to stay in Britain. Visitors will also get the chance to talk to a tight-lipped spokesman and see

Polish seamen begging for asylum.

Times Crossword Health Farm. A two-day crash course based on the revolutionary idea that slimming can be achieved through mental stress as well as dieting. Visitors are kept hard at the crossword not just between mealtimes, but through meals as well. Price: £350 a day. And the locality? "Fresh dig in Berkshire (7)", says the camp commandant. We think he means Newbury.

Make An Ad on Channel 4 Enterprise Scheme. Channel 4 have decided, in face of low advertising revenue, to extend access television to the commercials. Anyone who turns up today, and is not an Equity member, can make his own

commercial - and Channel 4 guarantee to show it. "We won't get any money out of it," admits a spokesman, "but it will make the commercial breaks look a bit more respectable."

SAS Cookery Demonstration, Lundy Island. Devotees of outdoor cooking and barbecues will not want to miss this chance of seeing the legendary SAS mobile kitchen in action. Swinging in from helicopters on ropes, and manoeuvring through the Agas cooker with incredible agility, they will have their equipment in position in five minutes, take no longer than 10 minutes to secure the cliff, and have the full meal of seagull egg omelette, baked limpet and Samphire Alaska ready and unbecomable 20 minutes later. Fully trained medical staff in attendance.

Tour of the Easter Egg Country Farm Fresh Factory, Oxford-

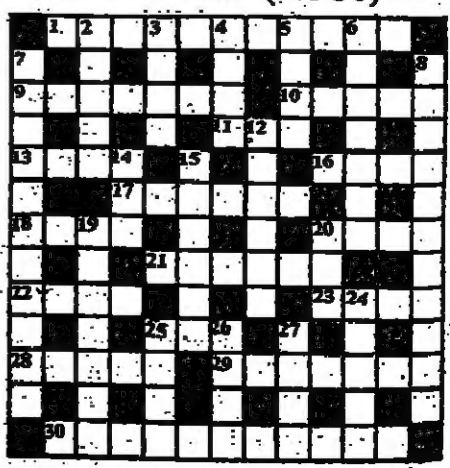
shire. The annual opening of the factory so that customers can see just how the eggs are painted for Easter in the traditional manner. Batteries of chickens, crowded into little cubicles, are made to paint eggs day and night in 12 glowing colours. Though they hardly seem to have room to wield a paintbrush, and work 22 hours a day under glaring floodlights, the owners assure us that the chickens like it that way and would not know what to do if allowed outside and given an artist's smock and room to move about.

Gardens Open To The Public. Too many to mention, but including the following houses: "Minefields" (courtesy Major-General Sir Max Hastings); "Piggy's Folly" (home of Auberon Waugh in the Barbican); "Gandhi Towers" (Maharishi Attenborough); Lord and Lady Spencer's garden may not be open today if all the flowers have been auctioned at Sotheby's, but check first.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 30)

ACROSS  
1 Walkers (11)  
2 Died out (7)  
3 Hybrid cat (5)  
4 Before (3)  
5 Meat necklace (4)  
6 Hunt in water (4)  
7 Severe reprimand (6)  
8 Inquisitive (4)  
9 Power (4)  
10 Gallery (6)  
11 Small animal (4)  
12 Emperor (4)  
13 Spring (3)  
14 Amulet (5)  
15 Take over again (7)  
16 Sun's surface (11)

DOWN  
1 Penetrate (5)  
2 Covered interval (1,1,1,1)  
3 Carry (4)  
4 Inactive (4)  
5 Dressing gown (7)  
6 Furniture territory (6,5)  
7 Organize (11)  
SOLUTION TO No 29  
ACROSS: 1 Oblate 5 France 6 Law 9 Mantua 10 Exotic 11 Eden 12 Ten pence 13 Atomic 15 Poland 17 Material 20 UEFA 22 Gringo 23 Idiot 24 Leo 25 Lyrics 26 Norway  
DOWN: 2 Braid 3 Antony 4 Elastic 5 Tween 6 Amples 7 Coracle 14 Test ray 15 Pillbox 16 Lander 18 Canal 19 Idol 21 Foss



12 Short jacket (6)  
14 Weep (3)  
15 Saint (6)  
19 Tanning (7)  
20 Allow (3)  
24 Thoroughly cleanse (5)  
25 Soot (4)  
26 Cultural works (4)  
27 Risk (4)



## PROFILE: Sir Ronald Syme

## The noblest Roman of them all

It is no small thing to have been alive to hear Caligula say *Ludia di Lammemoor*, to see Ken Rosewall's backhand, to read a new poem by Auden; and to be taught by Ronald Syme. The greatest living historian of Rome is 80: his birthday is being celebrated later this month by a banquet at Wolfson College, Oxford, and a colloquium that will be addressed by the choice and master Roman historians of the world.

The grand old man of the eagles and the trumpets deserves to be known outside the frontiers of his ancient discipline, which is less fashionable than when it was an essential part of the education of a civilized man or woman. Sir Ronald has led a revolution in the study of Roman history comparable to the revolution of Augustus, described in Syme's most famous book, *The Roman Revolution*. He turned our attention away from majestic institutions and abstractions to the way the Roman ruling class actually behaved, which was not as majestic as it was later gilded: no antique Romans, but ruffians and rascals, like most human beings in most periods and places. His detailed study of people and parties, known in the trade as prosopography, had affected our perceptions of the past generally, not just at Rome. Like his hero, Tacitus, Sir Ronald shows himself "ever alert to the contrast between what people say and what they do." "Alert" is his favourite hooray-word of praise.

He was born in New Zealand. His origin in a distant province of a later Empire influenced his understanding of the Roman Empire as fruitfully as Gibbon's service in the Hampshire militia influenced his. The small Ronnie Syme was a precocious scholar, almost in the class of Tom Macaulay. There is a story of him, aged ten, poring over large-scale maps of the Danube and the Rhine. Later he walked the length and breadth of those frontier provinces.

In his cups he has been known to sing Serbo-Croat folk songs, from the Balkans, where they produce more history than they can consume locally. He came to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, and started work as a military historian. His first major publication was an account of those northern frontiers of Rome for the Cambridge Ancient History. His training and taste inclined him from the beginning to the view that power lay with the legions rather than the constitutional niceties of *Imperium maius* and tribunician power.

But Roman history in those days was very much concerned with constitutional niceties, institutions, and generalizations, under the immense influence of Theodor Mommsen, who was said to have

codified Roman law more than the Romans ever did. The collapse of the Roman Republic and the arrival of the Empire were seen as a constitutional struggle between a conservative party called the Optimates and a reforming party of Populares. Augustus was seen as the statesman who restored and reformed the Republic maybe a bit of a cold fish, lacking charisma, but a worthy constitutional figure, rather like the Prince Consort. John Buchan, an intelligent amateur, even wrote a hero-worshipping biography of Augustus, as the great leader and master designer: an opinion that had sinister contemporary resonances in the Thirties. "Leave Truth to the police and us; we know the Good..."

Nobody, least of all Tacitus, can write great history *sine ira et studio*. The most effective history, from Tacitus and Gibbon, to Macaulay and Syme, has been partial, biased, written with anger and love. Ronald Syme was influenced by the rise of the dictator in the Thirties to turn a beady eye on the rise of Augustus. His work stripped from that cold, calculating, opportunistic brow the garlands of adulation that had been hung there by 60 generations, starting with Virgil and Horace. Syme could see how revolutions were made, and he had a shrewd suspicion that there was more to them than the official propaganda put out by Mussolini and Goebbels.

Syme's *The Roman Revolution* surveyed in great detail the lives of the ruling and rising classes in that earthquake that transformed the world between 60 BC and AD 14: a sort of *Who's Who* of the Revolution. Where did this man come from? Which clan did he marry into? To which faction was he bound by *amicitia* or hope of advancement? His argument was that the political life of the Roman Republic was stamped and swayed, not in the conventional view, by parties and programmes of a modern and parliamentary character, not by the ostensible opposition between Senate and People, *Optimates* and *Populares*, *nobles* and *novi homines*, but by the strife for power, wealth and glory.

The Roman constitution, which generations of undergraduates had studied in elaborate detail, was a screen and a sham. The gangsters and dynasts who ran Rome used networks of connexions, money-men, corruption, the sword, clients from freedmen to foreign monarchs, bully-boys, and factions of all kinds to build up their power and influence. They might use high-sounding wessel words to describe what they were up to: *dignitas*, *gloria*, *magnitudo animi*, *fides*, *libertas*, *pax*. But the reality behind



Sir Ronald Syme, grand old man of the eagles and trumpets

the words was the same old reality behind the words that were coming out of Berlin and Rome. *The Roman Revolution* was published in a hurry in June 1939, just before our latest world revolution. A romantic sense of doom permeates its preface: "It has not been composed in tranquillity; it ought to be held back for several years and rewritten. But the theme, I firmly believe, is of some importance. For the next few years the world was too busy to recognize that it had

been given one of the great works of history of this century. Syme himself was in Belgrade, Ankara, and Constantinople. But after the war, recognition came. It is a work of massive erudition and detailed scholarship, with a cast of thousands. But it can be read with pleasure by the intelligent amateur, who has a good memory and keeps his wits about him, because of Syme's style. It is compulsive, heavy with irony and allusion, notably Tacitean in its short, fierce sentences. "Italy began to stir... Fortune

was arranging the scene for a grand and terrible spectacle... The tragedies of history do not arise from the conflict of conventional right and wrong. They are more august and more complex. Caesar and Brutus each had right on his side." It is, of course, possible to criticize Syme's view of *The Roman Revolution*. You could say that it takes the ideas as well as the institutions out of history, because it is easier to catalogue a man's economic interests and family

relationships than his fundamental beliefs and values. A Marxist would say that Syme and his school concentrate exclusively on Top People, forgetting that the wheels of history are turned also by those whom Syme himself has described as "the slaves and serfs and the voiceless earth-coloured rustics".

You could say that history is the history of ideas and problems, not just of individuals or of groups, and that Syme over-stresses the significance of family, marriage, *faction*, and connexions among the ruling oligarchs, and tends to underplay spiritual and emotional allegiances. You could say all that, but still agree that the book is one of the most influential and important works of history of our century.

His other *magnum opus* was his monumental study of Tacitus, published in 1958, which opened another window on the past by again studying in prosopographical detail and the court of the subtle-toothed Emperor. It revealed for the first time a whole society: that of educated senators of the end of the first century, their outlook on the contemporary world, their reactions to the regime of Domitian which they had survived, and the terms in which they saw the Julio-Claudian period, which old man still living had experienced.

It also explored the motives that made that great and complex genius, Tacitus, write in the way he did: the central paradox that Tacitus hated despotism, but saw its necessity in the world as it was; that he praised the Stoic martyrs who defied it, but did not admire them; that he had a successful political career under the Terror, and was ashamed of it. It is a work of Proustian subtlety about motives. Sir Ronald has been known to lecture on the improbable collocation, "Tacitus and Marcel Proust". He once said that if he had not taken up Roman history, he would have chosen to spend his life studying Balzac. There are Syme-watchers who judge, with difficulty, that his *Tacitus* is his real masterpiece; it did not create quite so much vulgar fuss, because by then everybody was doing prosopography.

There is no space to list his other works, which range in theme from *Colonial Elites* (in which he deals with Spain and the Americas as well as Rome) to *History in Ovid*, which comes as near as is possible to solving the mystery of Ovid's disgrace and exile, and in time from *Sallust* to his foray into the late fourth century, another scholarly riddle called *Historia Augusta*. His life's *opus* has altered our perceptions not just of Roman history, but of the way that history works.

He is the Namier of Roman history, doing for the persons and factions of the dying Republic what Sir Lewis Namier did for Whigs and Tories at the accession of George III. He has never read Namier, but may have been influenced by the pioneer German prosopographical Roman historians, Gelzer and Münz. He has been more influential than any of them, because he writes so well, with that doom-laden Tacitean terseness.

He is a stocky man, with hair brushed straight back. He has darting, inquisitive, almost suspicious eyes; he talks as he writes, with formidable cleverness and rhetoric, so that it is hard to distinguish his praise from his blame, in both his speech and his writing. The sensitive can usually work out his aversion to work that is pretentious, second-hand, or dull after hearing a more than usually pedantic paper: "Things like that should be published as an article. (Pause). Or perhaps not at all."

Another characteristic Syme phrase: "So far so good." He is a fine linguist, not just in Latin. He addresses learned conferences around Europe in the native language, as though to the manor born. For many years he was secretary-general and then president of Unesco's International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies.

He is a very private, perhaps a secretive man; rather like Tacitus. There are few indications available of any interests other than Roman history and French literature. He does not collect. He has no obvious hobbies. He is interested in and knowledgeable about German wines. There are no indications of whether he is rich or poor, or of any connexions with academic factions. He will be an unsuitable subject for prosopographical study by future historians.

But in his own field he is a world scholar at the top of the first division, impossible to over-rate, as prolific and learned and sharp as anybody we have. He once asked a junior fellow half his age to proof-read an article for him, on the improbable grounds that he, Syme, was going blind. Later he dryly pointed out to his *cher collègue* 25 errors that the colleague had missed, and that the aged, half-blind Professor had picked up afterwards. He is the noblest, well anyway the greatest, Roman historian of them all. And that is why the rest of them, whether they agree with Syme or not, are descending on Oxford from the round earth's imagined corners to honour the master's eightieth birthday.

Philip Howard

In the introduction to his masterpiece, *The Roman Revolution*, Sir Ronald Syme describes his approach to the imperial dynasts

## The despot and his oligarchs

At its worst, biography is flat and schematic; at the best, it is often baffled by the hidden discords of human nature. Moreover, undue insistence upon the character and exploits of a single person invests history with dramatic unity at the expense of truth. However talented and powerful in himself, the Roman statesman cannot stand alone, without allies, without a following. That axiom holds both for the political dynasts of the closing age of the Republic and for their last sole heir - the rule of Augustus was the rule of a party, and in certain aspects his Principate was a syndicate. In truth, the one term presupposes the other.

The career of the revolutionary leader is fantastic and unreal if told without some indication of the composition of the faction he led, of the personality, actions and influence of the principal among his partisans. In all ages, whatever the form and name of government, be it monarchy, republic, or democracy, an oligarchy lurks behind the facade, and Roman history, Republican or Imperial, is the history of the governing class. The marshals, diplomats, and financiers of the Revolution may be discerned again in the Republic of Augustus as the ministers and agents of power, the same men but in different garb. They are the government of the New State.

It will therefore be expedient and salutary to investigate, not merely the origin and growth of the Caesarian party, but also the vicissitudes of the whole ruling class over a long period of years, in the attempt to combine and adapt that cumbersome theme to a consecutive narrative of events. Nor is it only the biography of Augustus that shall be sacrificed for the gain of history. Pompeius, too, and Cato must be reduced to due subordination.

After Sulla's ordinances, a restored oligarchy of the *nobles* held office at Rome. Pompeius fought against it; but Pompeius, for all his power, had to come to terms. Nor could Caesar have ruled without it. Coerced by Pompeius and sharply repressed by Caesar, the aristocracy was broken at Philippi. The partisans of Pompeius and of Caesar had hardly been strong or coherent enough to seize control of the whole State and form a government. That was left to Caesar's heir, at the head of a new coalition, built up from the wreckage of other groups and superseding them all.

The policy and acts of the Roman People were guided by an oligarchy, its annals were written in an oligarchic spirit.



The Emperor Caesar Augustus

History arose from the inscribed record of consulships and triumphs of the *nobles*, from the transmitted memory of the origins, alliances and feuds of their families; and history never belied its beginnings. Of necessity the conception was narrow: only the ruling order could have any history at all and only the ruling city: only Rome not Italy. In the Revolution the power of the old governing class was broken, its composition transformed. Italy and the non-political orders in society triumphed over Rome and the Roman aristocracy. Yet the old framework and categories subsist: a monarchy rules through an oligarchy.

Subject and treatment indicated, it remains to choose a date for the beginning. The breach between Pompeius and Caesar and the outbreak of war in 49 BC might appear to open the final act in the fall of the Roman Republic. That was not the opinion of their enemy Cato: He blamed the original alliance of Pompeius and Caesar. When Pollio set out to narrate the history of the Roman Revolution he began, not with the crossing of the Rubicon, but with the compact of 60 BC, devised by the

political dynasts Pompeius, Crassus and Caesar to control the State and secure the domination of the most powerful of their number...

That formulation deserved and found wide acceptance. The menace of despotic power hung over Rome like a heavy cloud for thirty years from the Dictatorship of Sulla to the Dictatorship of Caesar. It was the age of Pompeius the Great. Stricken by the ambitions, the alliances and the feuds of the dynasts, monarchic faction-leaders as they were called, the Free State perished in their open strife.

Augustus is the heir of Caesar or of Pompeius as you will. Caesar the Dictator bears the heavier blame for civil war. In truth, Pompeius was no better - "occultior non melior". And Pompeius is in the direct line of Marius, Cinna and Sulla. It all seems inevitable, as though destiny ordained the succession of military tyrants.

In the last and fatal convulsions, disaster came upon disaster, ever more rapid. Three of the monarchic principles fell by the sword. Five civil wars and more in twenty years drained the life-blood of Rome and involved the whole world in strife and anarchy. Gaul and the West stood firm; but the horsemen of the Parthians were seen in Syria and on the western shore of Asia. The Empire of the Roman People, perishing of its own greatness, threatened to break and dissolve into separate kingdoms - or else a renegade, coming like a monarch out of the East, would subjugate Rome to an alien rule. Italy suffered devastation and sacking of cities, with proscription and murder of the best men: for the ambitions of the dynasts provoked war between class and class. Naked power prevailed.

The anger of Heaven against the Roman People was revealed in signal and continuous calamities: the gods had no care for virtue or justice, but intervened only to punish...

In the beginning kings ruled at Rome, and in the end, as was fated, it came round to monarchy again. Monarchy brought concord. During the Civil Wars every party and every leader professed to be defending the cause of liberty and of peace. Those ideals were incompatible. When peace came, it was the peace of despotism. "Cum domino pax ista venit." ("Peace came, but it came with a Führer.")

The Roman Revolution is available as an Oxford Paperback at £5.95

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## THE TIMES DIARY

### Cambridge calls

Communist leaders in Hongkong, and therefore supposedly in Peking, are surprised at reports that Sir Percy Cradock, Britain's ambassador to China, will retire in October. Because of his involvement in talks on Hongkong's future it had been assumed his term would be extended. Cradock is not interested in staying on, being keen to seek election as Master of St Catharine's College, Cambridge. Alan Donald of the Foreign Office, a former political adviser in Hongkong, is likely to succeed him. Meanwhile Hongkong's governor, Sir Edward Youde, will be visiting Peking next month and will become a regular participant in the talks. Hongkong's communists support that idea.

### On target

The power of the press is nothing compared to that of the Rose Lawn guest house at Burghfield, scene of the CND's Easter demo. Having turned away a number of very respectable looking demonstrators, on the grounds that they were hippies, the establishment, the nearest source of breakfast, admitted three scruffy photographers and my own bearded colleague Nicholas Timmins on production of their press cards. But a breakfast which, I am told, was distinguished only by its ordinariness set the media men back a fiver a head - presumably to make up for the trade that was being turned away.

### Food for thought

The nine most recent American ambassadors to Britain are being invited to a British breakfast at Tiffany's on April 14 for the Britain Salutes New York festival. The breakfast menu is: orange juice, sausages, ketchup, York ham, marmalade, coffee and tea. It just faintly suggests to me that the Americans think their ambassadors get up about tea-time.

Jack Higgins quotes wryly this headline which his fellow novelist and daughter, Sarah Patterson, sent him from a local paper: "Nuclear fallout shelter damaged by Barnsley vandals".

### Stickers unstuck

Poor old Bill Stickers is in trouble again. Anti-poster paint developed in West Germany is being marketed in Britain, and could put him out of business - posters will not stay on surfaces treated with it. The makers claim that the paint makes graffiti so difficult that those trying to scrawl slogans and obscenities will give up in disgust.

### Blooming shame

Humphrey Brooke, connoisseur of roses and former secretary of the Royal Academy, regrets the absence from the Academy's current Allan Gwynne-Jones exhibition of a picture of some of his flowers. It is because Cecil King came to dinner an hour before he was invited. Gwynne-Jones, who moments earlier had told Brooke "It's in the bag - just half an hour more", politely laid brushes aside because King wanted to describe his recent portrait by Graham Sutherland. In the morning the rose blooms had altered, so the picture, by the man Brooke regards as the greatest British master of still-life painting, was never finished.

### Healthy high life

Kenneth Lo reckons, as founder of the Chinese Gourmet Club, to have taken 16,000 out to Chinese dinners. Those who accompany him on his latest gastronomic tour of China, though, will be introduced to something different: the biggest health food restaurant in the world. It is the Chengda branch of the Tung Ren Tang pharmacy which Lo describes as "a sort of Ming Boots". The restaurant has 19 floors.

### Spy story

The Austrian painter Friedensreich Hundertwasser, who opens a major exhibition at the Barbican next month, admits to having been a Russian spy. Visiting his mother in the Soviet zone of Vienna in the 1950s he was picked up by a car driven by a Red Army soldier. A civilian in the back offered him money to send postcards and maps of West German cities to his mother. Hundertwasser sent back postcards, mostly of famous German churches, and did not go back to Vienna until the occupation ended in 1955.

Thomas Calhoun, editor of the Enbairn company, has been telling me how Casper Weinberger, the American Defence Secretary, was chased out of the shower by Katharine Hepburn. It happened when Calhoun and Weinberger, classmates at Harvard, were spending a weekend with Hepburn's sister. Weinberger went to use the only shower, referring that to a bathtub. As soon as she realized where he was, Hepburn bellowed: "Get out of that shower!" She had had it of a friend - Howard Hughes, who, while at that time not reclusive, had already developed his phobia about germs. As it happened Hughes never did use the shower. Soon after, a hurricane blew the house away.

PHS

### Bernard Levin: The way we live now

## A musical tour de force to set the spirit soaring



Mozart, said the apparatchik, was a product of emerging capitalism. Stern, with infinite gentleness, made clear he had never heard such disgusting rubbish in his whole life

And the audiences, whether of children and students in the musical academies he visited, or in the packed concert halls in which he played, were visibly rapt throughout - when, that is, they were not convulsed with laughter as he pantomimed a joke with his exceptionally voluble hands.

So this beautiful and moving travogue continues, with Stern infecting all those he meets with his happy devotion to music and his happy curiosity about everyone and everything he comes upon. (He visits the training school for those astounding acrobats we have seen in the West, and watches, turned to stone with amazement, as a girl feends off with her feet a series of wooden staves thrown at her, with increasing rapidity, by four colleagues simultaneously; her agility and grace, and the sheer impossibility of what she was doing, made me, only a few minutes after the

scene had ended, wonder whether I had not imagined it. Stern, when it was over, found the point of time with which to celebrate the return of his ability to speak: "On the other hand," he said, "they can't play Mozart".)

And then, without warning, the darkness descends; the abruptness of the change is almost as shocking as the change itself. Towards the end of the tour, in Shanghai, Stern is summing up his impressions. He expresses surprise at one aspect of Chinese music-making that he has found everywhere: the younger children, from eight to 11, or thereabouts, are plainly very talented, giving great promise for the future, but the older ones - from 15 to 19, say - have lost the fine edge of quality. What has happened in between?

I don't know whether Stern knew the answer before he asked the question; if he did not, it must have

struck him an almost mortal blow. The apparatchik, human for once, gave the official explanation first: the stamping-out of all western influence during the Cultural Revolution meant that an entire generation of young Chinese musicians, forbidden to continue with their studies, had had their formative years stolen from them; the older students Stern had heard were of this group, the younger ones, now that the prohibition on western music had been lifted, would continue to advance.

But that was only the explanation, and it was given in terms much less stark than my paraphrase: what did the explanation actually mean? Its full meaning was revealed by the Deputy Director of the Shanghai Conservatory, clearly a man of great sweetness and quality: slowly and quietly, in excellent English, he described the murderous lunacy of the Cultural Revolution, with the Red Guards acting as the storm-troopers of a movement that was, in its hatred of civilization in every form, literally Nazi in character. Ten of the professors at the Conservatory had committed suicide; not this gentle sage said, because of the incessant beatings and torture, which could be borne, but because of the degradation and humiliation that was visited upon them.

He described his own. For 14 months he had been confined to a cupboard under the stairs, without light or ventilation, and with a sewage tank beneath the floorboards; he was allowed out for only a few minutes a day. It was clear that, even by the insane proscriptions of the time, he had committed no crime except the ultimate crime of loving the art he taught; as an extra punishment for it, he was allowed, throughout the whole period of his torment, a single visit from his daughter and grandchild, lasting five minutes.

The Chinese rulers, though they have posthumously demoted Mao from his position of God-King, are not yet ready to criticize him seriously, let alone admit that the Gang of Four was a Gang of Five, and that the terror was unleashed by him. Still, the elderly professor spoke with a very remarkable openness, not least in making clear the reason for the brutalities at the Conservatory, plainly typical of what was happening throughout the country. (Anyone who sees this extraordinary film might do well, when this scene is reached, to remember indeed it would be hard not to - that while this dreadful mania was raging throughout China, there were plenty of voices raised in praise of it in Britain and elsewhere in the West.)

A film filled with such heart and happiness cannot be allowed to end on such a note. Over a rapid montage of brief scenes we hear repeated the old professor's final words: "I do not think such times will come again", and then we are back finally in the concert hall, as Stern sweeps to the end of the Brahms Concerto, with the whole audience exploding in excitement and gratitude. This film won an Oscar in the documentary category; it deserves also a prize for its contribution to understanding, to art, to civilization and to humanity itself.

### Gerald Kaufman

## British may be best - but not for all

Tomorrow it will be exactly a year since the Royal Navy task force set sail for the Falkland Islands. Naturally, it was composed of warships built in British shipyards. Awaiting it 8,000 miles away was the Argentine fleet, itself including numerous vessels also built in British yards. Before long, Exocet missiles, containing components made in Britain, were raining down on British servicemen.

Since the Conservative Government came to office, it has signed contracts with 84 countries for the supply of defence equipment. There will be little surprise that France, Pym, Sir John Nott and Michael Heseltine have been willing to sell weapons to such friendly nations as Australia, Denmark and Portugal.

Some of their customers, however, had been of a much more dubious character. As well as Argentina, odious dictatorships to which they had sold military equipment include Chile, Libya and Iran. Balanced against supplies to the Ayatollah were similar sales to Iraq; down in those horrid wastes around the Persian Gulf, Britain has been assisting Iraqis to kill Iraqis and, to even the score, helping Iraqis to polish off Iraqis. Similarly, because our government has sold weapons to Israel, to Lebanon and Syria, it is perfectly possible that all the various combatants in the Lebanon war were slaying their foes with the aid of equipment marked "Made in Britain".

Not only has the Conservative Government been making such sales to adversaries in conflicts in which Britain is not involved, either physically or even ideologically; it has even been supplying weaponry to communist regimes which have repudiated Mrs Thatcher's rejection as recently as Maudy Thursday, I suppose we can concede that even to our fiercely anti-Marxist Prime Minister, Yugoslavia and the People's Republic of China (both customers of her defence salesmen) do not count exactly as enemies.

What, however, of Romania? A paid-up member of the Warsaw Pact and regarded by many as one of the more repressive of the regimes behind what "Winston" (as Mrs Thatcher familiarly dubs him) labelled the Iron Curtain? How can our Prime Minister be so incessantly laudatory about the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan yet at the same time be willing to sell the machinery of war to one of the Soviet Union's most loyal allies?

For of course armaments do not find their way abroad by chance. The Ministry of Defence makes clear that "all exports of military equipment are carefully controlled, and subject to the granting of an

export licence by the Department of Trade." So, before those sales to Argentina and Romania were approved, they had to survive a careful sifting process.

As soon as Galtieri's flag was hoisted over Port Stanley, Mrs Thatcher commenced denouncing not only the dictator's aggression against British territory but also his repression of human rights in his own. Just the other day, in the latest of her seemingly interminable series of interviews about the Falklands, she proclaimed that Britain fought the war there to defend "freedom, justice, democracy". Yet right up to the eve of that war, she was selling armaments to the Argentinean suppressors of freedom, justice, democracy.

Either the Prime Minister happened to discover that Argentina was a totalitarian state only when the Falklands were invaded - and that would have made her unaccountably ill-informed - or else she knew it all along, was perfectly ready to sell arms to such a beastly lot for ready money, and found their beastliness offensive only when she came up against it herself. Some people might regard such an attitude as hypocritical, just as they might regard as hypocritical Mrs Thatcher's denunciations of communism in general coupled with her readiness to sell death-dealing products to specified communist countries.

The Labour government, as a matter of principle, refused to sell arms to South Africa (which, interestingly, does not appear on the Tory list either) or to Chile. Apart from certain obligations to Britain's allies, the Tory government seems ready to sell military equipment to all-comers. Such an approach, though it is ruthless and possible precisely because it is ruthless, would be perfectly acceptable in Tory terms, if only Mrs Thatcher did not keep haranguing us about all the principles she believes in and how much she despises those who do not share her principles. Indeed, she should attract more respect if she conducted herself like past French presidents, who were perfectly ready to sell anything to anybody provided it brought in an honest, even if bloodstained or nuclear-polluted, franc.

Such a brutal but straightforward attitude does not, unfortunately for the Tory image-makers, fit in with their Resolute Approach. Neither, however, does very belatedly placing a ban on selling arms to Argentina and instead lending the Argentines money to buy arms from someone else: arms, quite likely, containing components made in Mrs Thatcher's resolute Britain.

The author is Labour MP for Manchester, Ardwick.

### Nicholas Ashford

## The anti-cruise lobby out for a strike

Washington  
As the demonstrations continue in Britain against the siting of Tomahawk cruise missiles, their number have just lyrically described them as "a weapon for all seasons", adding, more ominously, "the missiles the Russians fear most". But is the cruise the wonder weapon it is made out to be?

While the political controversy in Europe and America has attracted most attention, there has also been growing criticism in the United States about the performance and survivability of cruise missiles. Some argue that the Tomahawk is a dud, that it is incapable of performing its intended task. Others feel that although the missile will be able to reach its target under ideal conditions, it is much more likely to miss. "Given the problems that have developed with the guidance system, a missile has as much chance of landing in West Germany as in Russia," commented Mr Paul Hobbs, of the Washington-based Project on Military Procurement.

There is also concern that missiles are becoming vulnerable to new Soviet ground-to-air missiles and advance radar. The United States Air Force has recently indicated it may curtail its present air-launched cruise programme and opt instead for a new "stealth" missile which would be more difficult for Soviet radar to find.

Such charges are rejected by the Tomahawk's manufacturer, General Dynamics, as well as by the Joint Cruise Missile Project (JCMP) which was set up to coordinate the whole cruise programme. Mr Jerry Babin, of General Dynamics' Convair division in San Diego, pointed out that the ground-launched Tomahawk had just successfully concluded its eighth test flight over a distance of 750 nautical miles on a test range in Utah.

The cruise missile is essentially a highly-sophisticated version of the Second World War V-1 buzz bombs or "doodlebugs". But whereas the V-1's crude guidance system meant that most of them missed target, the 21-ft long, 21-in wide Tomahawk is said to be able to strike with pinpoint accuracy after travelling distances of up to 1,350 nautical miles.

This is achieved by two Tomahawk innovations. One is the use of terrain contour matching (known by the acronym "Tercom") which allows in-flight updating of the missile's inertial guidance system. The other is a terrain-following flight system which allows the subsonic missile to fly low (often below 100 feet) and to climb up and around hills and valleys on its way to the target. This contour-hugging capability is essential to the Tomahawk's survival as it travels at only 550 miles an hour.

Tercom works like this: stored inside the missile's guidance computer is an array of digital maps

displaying the contour of the surface at certain points along the missile's preprogrammed flight path; as it approaches the target the maps become more detailed.

A radar altimeter points downwards from the missile's belly; where there are recognizable terrain features, the Tercom computer compares the readings of the altimeter with the appropriate contour map. If the missile is off track, the Tercom will steer it back on course.

At least that is how the system is supposed to work. However, some defence specialists believe the reality may be quite different. According to a "sanitized" report by the General Accounting Office (GAO), a Congressional watchdog body, "the missile's inadequate guidance system would make the missile ineffective against a wide spectrum of high value targets".

Several potential problems with the guidance system have been identified. It has been claimed, for example, that Tercom does not operate effectively over flatlands where there are few recognizable features - and the land between Western Europe and the Urals is predominantly flat. It is also said that seasonal changes, such as snow or falling leaves, can alter the missile's radar altimeter readings.

Some defence specialists also say the missile's 600lb thrust motor is too feeble to propel it along its tortuous route: it is expected to follow that its guidance system can be easily jammed and that it is vulnerable to anti-missile defences. All of these charges are firmly denied by the manufacturers and the JCMP. They contend that the tests already carried out have been extremely rigorous and have taken place in conditions similar to those to be found in the Soviet Union. "We've had a 70 per cent success rate so far and we are aiming for 90 per cent," said Mr Robert Holsapple, the JCMP's director of public affairs.

Although jamming could be a problem, the Soviet Union does not have sufficient resources to just wave upon wave of Tomahawks aimed at a whole range of targets. Nor, it is argued, do they have the air surveillance facilities to be able to detect the missiles in time to shoot them down before they reach target. "It would cost the Russians between \$50,000m and \$100,000m to develop an adequate look-down-shoot-down capability," added Mr Holsapple.

Whatever scaled down deployment figures may be agreed on at the Geneva negotiations on reducing medium-range missiles, the manufacturers are confident the first missiles will be ready for deployment at Greenham Common this year. Whether the missiles can actually perform their allotted task is something which one hopes will never actually be put to the test.



Geoffrey Rose: his consuming hobby at risk

## A rattle of grapeshot at Château Byng

As the drums rolled in Portsmouth harbour on a blustery March day in 1757 and a line of British tars took careful aim at the ample frame of Admiral John Byng, who had just lost Minorca to the French, the poor mariner must have thought his name disgraced for ever. But now a tiny allotment vineyard, under threat of being grabbed up by a local council, has named its produce Château Byng.

The Potters Bar allotment association, unlike the admiral, intend to win their fight. Once he has an allotment an Englishman falls fiercely in love with his plot and, or in this case, his grapes - for all the Minorcas in the Mediterranean.

Hertsmere District Council want to move Potters Bar allotments from their cosy little niche behind the High Street, where they have been for generations, to a windy, rock-strewn field near the M25, where the elderly and very young are too frightened to cross the race-track slip road.

The council chose to ignore a public inquiry that ruled in Château Byng's favour and the 6,000-signature petition which followed it. Yet

Byngites are still confident they can stop the bulldozer invasion.

"I couldn't really call it Château Rose", said Mr Geoffrey Rose, who produces Château Byng on the land the council wants to develop for housing. "People would have thought it was a rose wine when in fact it is somewhere between a Beaujolais and a St Emilion with a good depth of colour. The shop in the High Street creates a microclimate which makes this possible". Just as the Plateau de Langres protects Burgundy.

"The Byngs have always lived around here and one of them was shot for cowardice. People seem to like the name", he added as other locals pointed out that it was nothing to do with Bing Crosby.

"I would just have to pack in growing grapes if we had to move to another place. For a start the place they suggest is more than 400ft above sea level, to say nothing of the poisonous lead from the motorway. More than 150 growers and their friends use the allotments 365 days a year and they won't run from the council like Byng beat a tactical retreat from the French.

"My vines produced 35 barrels

last year, it has been my consuming hobby for more than a decade and is something I don't intend to give up".

Butcher Bill Smith, aged 62, chairman of the allotments association, is in fighting mood: "We have had a public inquiry decide in our favour and the council just put two fingers up at that. They say we can only object to modifications of their housing plan for the site. We don't want to modify the plan. We don't want it at all, so they have ruled our objections out of order. It's crazy".

"Then we raised 6,000 signatures out of a population of 20,000. The council said this was not fair because our petition did not put their case for housing, which I might add we don't need because of the drop in population. The new site is a cold, unkind place people have likened to Siberia".

Ian Harding, the Conservative chairman of development services, rallied against the Château Byng broadside: "They are being very militant but they all know this land has been earmarked for possible development since 1967. The council is under no commitment to go along with a public inquiry. The

inspector is paid by the council and we do not have to accept his findings, as in a planning inquiry. We have not decided yet whether the housing on the site will be council or private".

But Mr Rose knows how to hit where it hurts: "The allotments are such a good meeting place for whole family groups from granddads to little children who could not be taken to play near the busy roads of the new site," he said.

Fifty the poor Tory who at the moment does anything against the Sacred English Family and annoys the Eumenides of Central Office. But then the political frame of things has really become disjointed in Potters Bar, where Labour plans to vote with the Alliance against house-building. Château Byng is comparable in intoxicating political effect to Sanatogen in the Wilson years.

Mr Harding and friends are said to be planning a tactical retreat at a crucial meeting next month. The ghost of Admiral Byng, who was more than experienced in such matters, will no doubt be watching with some amusement.

Paul Pickering





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## CHURCH AND STATE

Easter Sunday is a religious festival. Easter Monday is a secular holiday but without Easter Sunday we would not have it, or at least not on this particular day. It is therefore as good a day as any to consider the relationship between the sacred and the profane, between religion and the temporal affairs of the community.

Some may consider that there should be no such relationship. But religion obstinately refuses to confine itself to abstract theological questions or issues of private conduct. Try as we may, we cannot prevent it from spilling over into public life. England may seem backward, to Mr Benn and others, in not having legally separated church and state. But even where that is achieved it does not have the effect of placing religion and politics in separate, watertight compartments.

That is hardly surprising when we consider the very broad claims on human attention that both religion and politics make. Politics claims man as the political animal, in other words it purports to deal with precisely that aspect of human nature which distinguishes human beings from other species. Religion purports to answer man's most fundamental questions about himself and his place in the universal scheme of things. They are thus condemned either to dispute each other's claims, or to overlap.

Some religions do dispute the definition of man as the political (or social) animal. Buddhism, for instance, at any rate in some of its forms, teaches its adepts to regard the human community as an irrelevance if not an illusion. The religious life then becomes essentially a life of withdrawal from that community and its affairs. Similarly there are forms of politics that dispute the relevance of religion. The best-known example is Marx calling it the opium of the people, though the preceding sentence - "Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, just as it is the spirit of spiritless conditions" - shows that he had more respect for the phenomenon than he is often credited with. Still, he thought it would wither away along with other "ideologies" - a word he used to mean forms of false consciousness - once human beings were liberated from class divisions and able to take a rational view of their own situation.

A more common political approach to religion is to try to reduce it to a mere compartment of human life, occupying limited time and limited subject-matter, something one can put out of mind as soon as one emerges from the church door, or at any rate something which need not intrude when it comes to

considering the affairs of the community. Of course, that is how many of us treat our religion in practice, but it is not an attitude that a genuinely religious person can easily justify. The person who takes both religion and politics seriously is bound to find that the former affects his approach to the latter. And politicians implicitly recognize this when they look to religion for help at moments of crisis, particularly when people have to be asked to risk their lives for a political cause, or persuaded that lives already given were not given in vain.

Religions of the Western monotheist family, especially, find it hard to disengage themselves from the communal life of those who follow them. Judaism, the fount from which the others spring, originated as the tribal cult of a particular people. It arrived at monotheism through the elevation of that people to a special, sacred destiny. If it saw its followers as isolated individuals it would be denying a central part of itself. Historically, its concern has always been with the life of the Jewish community, and the regulation of that life by God-given law.

Much the same could be said of Islam. If Judaism originated as the faith of a political community, Islam formed a new political community based on a new faith. The faith, it is true, proved much stronger and more durable than the particular community which first gave it expression. But few Muslims have been willing to abandon the notion that in principle Islam is, among other things, a political and social doctrine. The Egyptian scholar Ali Abd-El-Raziq, who dared in the 1920s to argue that Islam does not entail any particular set of political principles, was condemned by the shaikhs of al-Azhar and has never been rehabilitated since.

Christianity presents a more complex case, because it was born partly in reaction to the identification of Jewish religion with Jewish political independence, at a time when the strength of the Roman empire made independence unattainable. Christ gave hope to his followers and baffled the authorities, both Roman and Jewish, by proclaiming "My kingdom is not of this world."

This was, in a sense, a non-political interpretation of Judaism. Certainly Christ did not seek political confrontation. Hence: "render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's". If he envisaged that there would one day be a Christian Caesar, his message for that eventuality went unrecorded.

Yet clearly Christ was anything but indifferent to the sufferings of human beings on

this earth. If his message was non-political, in as much as it did not sanctify the use of coercive power (except for that awkward "whip of small cords"), it was certainly not non-social. Feed the hungry, heal the sick, visit the prisoner, sell all you have and give to the poor, love your neighbour as yourself: no sanction there for a withdrawal from human society.

So the Christian who becomes Caesar - the Christian, that is, confronted with political choices, as all of us are in a democracy - can hardly feel that in making them his faith is irrelevant. Yet at the same time he finds no unmistakable guidance in the gospel. Should he turn his back on political power, because of the element of coercion it contains, or should he treat it as an opportunity to do good? Most Christians have made the latter choice. But if you go into politics in that spirit, obviously you take your religion with you. You rely on it to tell you what good is and, most crucially, which is the lesser of two evils - for that, all too often, is the form that political choices take.

In the last resort each of us, whether Christian or not, has to make these choices according to his own conscience. But it is natural for the Christian to look to his church for guidance and it is therefore not surprising that church leaders feel called on to make pronouncements on their view of the morality of the political issues of the day. Of course these can be, and often are, disputed. But the essence of a free society is that each of us is free to make what pronouncements seem good to us, and that no one who does not want to is obliged to take our advice.

That is also the meaning of a secular state. It is a common misconception to identify a secular state with an irreligious society. In fact the idea of a secular state originates not in religious indifference but in religious difference - in religious opinions held so strongly that civil peace can only be kept by agreeing to make the state neutral between them. Instead of *cuius regio eius religio*, where the ruler imposes his own religion on all within his territory, in a secular state there is freedom for everyone to follow and proclaim his religion as loudly as he likes, including in politics, so long as he does not impose it on others against their will. To all intents and purposes Britain is such a state, even though there are nominally established churches in England and Scotland. The state is no longer at the service of those churches to impose their doctrine on those who do not accept it. The corollary is that they are free to say what they think even if it upsets the state.

Varley as leading economic ministers were also involved. If future Labour ministers frame a plausible, sensible economic and industrial strategy, there is no reason why a re-jigged Treasury and a re-fashioned Department of Industry could not provide all the bureaucratic back-up needed without the creation of a fancy new ministry. Humility is a virtue among the mighty. But too much in the way of Treasury powerlessness can be read into the remarks of Sir Douglas Wass and Mr Middleton.

Conservative Shadow spokesmen before the 1979 election had serious doubts about the Treasury's capacity to adapt to a new and more austere financial strategy. But economic history since 1979 has shown that political will has triumphed over anticipated bureaucratic inertia. There is no cause to suspect that the Treasury has lost the art of managing even relatively marked changes in political direction.

Radical structural change in bureaucracies is disruptive and rarely produces the intended result. Sir Harold Wilson's rash of new Ministers in 1964 did not design the "New Britain" described in Labour's manifesto. Before Mr Michael Foot visits Sir Robert Armstrong, the Cabinet Secretary, to tell him what kind of Whitehall Labour would want if it triumphs at the polls, he should read a lecture delivered last September by Lord Croom, Permanent Secretary to the Treasury from 1968 to 1974 and now industrial adviser to the Bank of England. In it Lord Croom decided "the naive view that the fault is in our machinery of government and not in ourselves". Mr Foot should consult Croom, and think again.

## Public attitudes towards the police

From Sir Kenneth Thompson

Sir, Like many other readers I find it disturbing in the extreme that Mr Whitelaw's action on police powers should receive such restrained approval from the police. It is, however, surprising that so many people are surprised. For a long time there has been growing within certain echelons of the police service an attitude of elitist arrogance which can lead only to more obstruction of the same kind. Some police leaders appear to visualise themselves as a separate state authority imposed upon the state itself.

This attitude is encouraged by a curious relic of a halcyon yesteryear when it was considered *de trop* for a gentleman or any responsible citizen to engage in even the mildest and most discreet criticism of "The Police". Only communists, revolutionaries and evil disturbers of the Queen's peace did any such thing. From this attitude has grown the dangerous polarisation of opinion now so evident.

Nobody - but nobody - may with impunity lay a hand on any aspect of police affairs since there is a nationwide "church" to which an appeal can be directed over the heads of everybody else.

One thing stands out starkly; we need now more than ever before a powerful agency for the maintenance of law and order at whatever cost in men and money short of surrendering those citizen rights which have been so hard won over such a long time. A society sanitised by fear is utterly repellent.

The 1981 riots appear to have sharpened the perception of some of the backwoodsmen. A couple of years ago a meeting of chief police officers heard an opinion expressed by one of their number that what this country needed was control by a secret police force. Since that summer of discontent things have changed - on the face of it. Now we have specially trained, low profile community police; but the intolerant hectoring which serves some police leaders in place of reasoned argument still seems to survive.

It will be widely acknowledged that nobody has a more demanding job than a chief constable - unless it is the bobby with a beat in a "difficult" area. The line drawn between too-hard and too-soft is impossible to define. Only very seldom will any two men interpret the same set of facts in the same way. A course of action decided upon in any given situation will depend almost as much upon the character of the man deciding as it will upon the circumstances of the case and the well-prepared rules. There are only two kinds of people - the law-breakers and the upholders of the law.

I deplore the failure of many police committees to sustain their questioning role. Chief constables enjoy a special position in our society, and it behoves us all to preserve and enhance it, but we must constantly guard ourselves against the tendency of power to corrupt. (Politicians, appointed by a more profane process, are regularly reminded of the same by an electorate)

## Codes of conduct

From Mr R. S. Musgrave

Sir, The Post Office likes post codes done in capital letters, but this requires four additional finger movements on a typewriter as compared to using small letters, a 70 per cent increase in time taken to type the code.

I do not believe it takes postmen greasy Casey Jones' specials, the stultifying odour of onions, french fries and other noxious edibles manage to overpower even the strongest pipe tobacco.

Now if BR were to introduce clearly designated "no eating" carriages, then here is one commuter who would willingly renew his season ticket!

Yours faithfully,  
COLIN WEBB,  
2 The High House,  
Kenley Lane,  
Kenley, Surrey,  
March 24.

From Mr Colin Webb

Sir, It comes as no surprise to hear news of British Rail's declining market, as even their innovations seem designed to discomfort the average discerning passenger.

## Drop in the ocean

From Sir Eric Smith, FRS

I have today received from a body (including in liquidation) called South West Water, and addressed to me under the instruction, "Please do not fold this counterfoil" and "Please do not mark or fold below the line", my reference to the immensity of their oceans: 25402400700011015 770023 97455 0009435874X.

There was a time, in childhood games, when J. E. Smith, Coombe Road, Saltsay, Cornwall, England, the World, the Universe would be thought to be sufficient now, and at all times, to find me - and I believe, perhaps would.

My present identification (as

## Nostell Priory painting

From Mr Mark Bostridge

Sir, The suggestion made by Mr Jack Priest in your issue of March 25, that the Nostell Priory copy of Holbein's "Sir Thomas More and his family", the original of which was destroyed by fire in 1752, is in fact by Holbein seems to me to be wholly untenable.

The work of Sir Roy Strong and others has confidently affirmed that the Nostell Priory painting is a copy by Rowland Lockey who trained in the 1580s under Hilliard and whose skills as a copyist are acknowledged in the Cavendish accounts for Hardwick Hall which constantly mention him in the early years of the 17th century.

The Nostell Priory painting was probably commissioned by More's grandson, Thomas More II, to whom the original briefly passed in the 1590s, and is one of three which

mainly composed of outright friends and outright foes.

Finally, I think most people would like to see a system of police discipline less dependent upon an utterly repugnant Star Chamber process; it should be seen to be done.

Yours, etc,  
KENNETH THOMPSON,  
Atherton Cottage,  
Formby,  
Merseyside,  
March 28.

From Mr Eldon Griffiths, MP for

Bury St Edmunds (Conservative)  
Sir, Standing Committee J has just completed its work on the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill. May I, as one of its members, comment on one particular aspect of this legislation, which appears to have alarmed a number of doctors, lawyers, and Bishops, namely possible interference with confidentiality of private documents.

The courts have always had powers to compel the disclosure of relevant material at a trial. The question is whether this should be allowed during pre-trial investigation.

The Government, like the Royal Commission, believes that it should. Therefore, Part 3 of the Bill would authorise the police - though only as a last resort - to search for "confidential material" specifically related to a serious arrestable offence (such as one involving grievous bodily harm). Before this can happen, however, the following procedures will be necessary:

First a senior police officer requests disclosure of specified information. If refused, he applies to a circuit judge in writing. The judge must then hold an *inter partes* hearing at which the medical (or any other) parties concerned, as well as the police, must have an opportunity to be heard (as happens when such an order is sought at a trial under the present law).

The police officer must satisfy the judge, answering any questions on oath, that there are reasonable grounds for believing that a serious arrestable offence has been committed; that there is specific evidence in the possession of the doctor of a substantial - not merely an incidental - relevance to the offence under investigation; that this evidence is admissible to the court; and that all other methods of obtaining it have been tried without success.

Only if he is so satisfied may the judge issue an order that this evidence be produced within seven days - and even then it is only in cases where this court order is not complied with that the judge, as a last resort, would be able to issue a warrant for the police to search for it.

It may be that further amendment to these arrangements can and will improve them. But the short answer to the campaign now being waged against this section of the Bill is that its critics have not done their homework.

Yours faithfully,  
ELDON GRIFFITHS,  
House of Commons,  
March 29.

## Deadly accurate

From Dr D. M. Kelle Harding

Sir, Perhaps because large figures and money are more newsworthy than small figures and kilograms, interceptions of illegal addictive drugs are often described in terms of their "street value" in sterling.

This seems not only to imply the existence of an orderly market with accepted values, but to advertise to the weaker brethren the kind of profit available to criminal traders.

Would it be better to refer to "thousands of fatal doses"? It should be possible to agree on a notional lethal dose; for this purpose, the figure needs hardly be critical.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID KELLET HARDING,  
17 Upper Rose Hill,  
Dorking, Surrey,  
March 28.

## Warm-blooded reply

From the President and the Chairman of The Mammal Society

Sir, It is really true that your Science Editor (Science Report, March 28) believes that the armadillos used by the National Institute of Medical Research are armour-plated terrestrial crustaceans? Have we been misled by generations of taxonomists into believing that they are warm-blooded mammals?

Yours faithfully,  
E. G. NEAL, President,  
W. N. BONNER, Chairman,  
The Mammal Society,  
Havestock House,  
62 London Road,  
Reading,  
Berkshire.

eat with Holbein's usual practice and the cramped perspective of the picture contrasts markedly with the Holbein drawing of the family preserved at Basle. The Nostell Priory painting is signed "Rowlandus Lockey fecit", a signature similar to that on the portrait of Lady Margaret Beaufort in St John's College Cambridge (a copy by Lockey of an earlier original).

As to Mr Leslau's assertions concerning the "hidden secret" of the painting with regard to the fate of the Princes in the Tower, the holes in his argument are too many to be gone into here. Let me just say that, as Mr Leslau argues, More's adopted son-in-law, Dr John Clement, was in fact Richard, Duke of York (born 1473), he would have been ninety-eight years old at the time of his death in 1571.

Yours faithfully,  
MARK BOSTRIDGE,  
28 St Margaret's Road,  
Oxford.

## Criteria for auditing state efficiency

From Professor Maurice R. Garner

Sir, In November, 1981, the Government instituted the efficiency auditing of the nationalized industries on a continuous, programmed footing, using the Monopolies and Mergers Commission as the audit agency. Though this was, for Britain, a marked improvement upon the past (bringing us forward to the stage achieved in France in 1948) and though the commission has handled its assignments so far with credit, the Government's arrangements were unsatisfactory.

The commission was not given the independence an auditor should have - it can only investigate what the Government directs it to investigate; it was not given the auditor's normal unrestricted access to persons, papers, and premises; it was not the agency responsible for examining the efficiency of the departments sponsoring the nationalized industries - this is the task of the Comptroller and Auditor General; and it is not free to advise select committees of the House of Commons in the way the Comptroller and Auditor General advises the Public Accounts Committee.

Mr St John-Stevens's Parliamentary Control of Expenditure (Reform) Bill, now in committee, would have remedied these defects by transferring the efficiency audit responsibility to the Comptroller and Auditor General under the general control of Parliament; but the Chief Secretary of the Treasury has countered the proposed change by putting down an amendment that would give the efficiency audit responsibility to firms of accountants. Rather than swallow this insult to Parliament, it is to be hoped that the paladins of parliamentary accountability will abandon this part of their Bill.

Auditing efficiency is a task requiring authority, multi-disciplinary expertise, the accumulation of information, and the building up of experience from previous audits. Countries that were early in the field of efficiency auditing of public enterprise have nevertheless been

held up by problems of resources and the retention of expert personnel.

Had the task of auditing British nationalized industries been given to the Comptroller and Auditor General and had he enjoyed the full backing of Parliament, it would still have been years before he could expect to have built up the qualified staff and evolved the techniques to do the job properly. (The commission is faced with the same problem.) Passing the job to, and splitting it between, private firms under no public control and with no obligation to devote the money and effort to building up a real audit capacity virtually guarantees that the job, in Britain, will never be done properly.

Perhaps this is what the Chief Secretary intends - and it certainly conforms to the wishes of the chairmen of the nationalized industries whose resistance to the audit of their efficiency by the Comptroller and Auditor General ought to inspire doubts about their fitness in the modern world to head large public undertakings.

When the managements of public undertakings in France, Renault and Elf-Aquitaine for example, can live with the efficiency audits of the Cour des Comptes without evident impairment of their readiness to take business risks and of their ability to make agreements with private firms, why should managements of British public enterprises not be able to face audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General?

It is time Parliament asked more demanding questions of both ministers and chairmen on the matter of efficiency. For the moment, however, the supporters of parliamentary accountability should either stick to their guns by rejecting the Chief Secretary's amending clause, or wash their hands of this part of the Bill and wait for some more favourable opportunity.

Yours faithfully,  
M. R. GARNER,  
The London School of Economics  
and Political Science,  
Houghton Street, WC2,  
March 24.

## Brooklands memories

From Mr Roger North

Sir, Peter Waymark's article (March 26) on Brooklands race revives old memories. When I was at Eton I kept an ABC motorcycle in a garage at Windsor. On Saturday afternoons, when I was supposed to be playing football, I rode the motorcycle to Brooklands to watch the racing.

Later I collaborated with my friend John Benson (later Lord Charrwood) to build a single-seater racing car. We built the car in the garage of my Norfolk home.

I shall always remember the drive to Brooklands. As the car was a single-seater the passenger, usually me, had to sit astride the pointed tail. The number plate was tied to the passenger's back and we were stopped by a policeman, who pointed out that the law required the number plate to be fixed to the vehicle and not to the passenger.

The car was powered by a JAP engine, developing 45 bhp and

giving a maximum speed of about 70 mph on the level. Both John Benson and I drove the car in races on Brooklands. They were mostly handicap races and the handicapper never allowed us to win a race. However, we had a great deal of fun and good sport. John later joined Lionel Martin who made the Aston-Martin sports car.

I met many racing motorists who drove at Brooklands. In particular I remember Tommy Hann, who drove a Lanchester called "Softly Catch Monkey". He lived in a bungalow in the middle of the track and he allowed me to use it as living quarters while I worked on my car.

I can still remember the thrill of sitting behind the large steering wheel and trying to hold the car steady (in spite of the bumps) as one came off the banking at about 80 miles per hour.

Yours sincerely,  
ROGER NORTH,  
Rougham Hall,  
King's Lynn,  
Norfolk,  
March 26.

## Freedom of choice

From Mr J. A. Leavy

Sir, Giving judgment in the case of Mr Ernest Cheall's disputed membership of the Association of Professional Clerical and Computer Staff (APEX) Lord Diplock is reported as having delivered himself of the following: "Freedom of association is mutual. There could be no right of an individual to associate with other individuals who are not willing to associate with him" (Law Report, March 25). Does this have important implications for some of the existing legislation aimed at preventing discrimination (on racial and sexual grounds) as for example where membership of a club is at issue?

Yours sincerely,  
J. A. LEAVY,  
30 Pembroke Gardens Close, W8,  
March 25.

## Taking 'The Times'

From Mr James O'Donald Mays

Sir, Perhaps Steven West (March 28), whose copy of *The Times* was stolen, can take comfort from knowledge that the top paper has long been a commodity with a potential second readership within the same day.

Nathaniel Hawthorne, American Consul to Liverpool during 1853-4, was a witness to this truth. Returning by ferryboat to his residence on the Cheshire side of the Mersey after a day's work, he found a beggar peddling a copy of *The Times* "with an aspect of doubtful newness."

When Hawthorne, who already took the paper, refused to buy the beggar's copy, the man turned on him saying, "Well, upon my word, Sir, I'm in want of a bit of bread." From subsequent observation, Hawthorne concluded the man to be a hunching who knew the value of *The Times* picked up aboard public transport.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES O'DONALD MAYS,  
Pipers,  
Brulley,  
Ringwood,  
Hampshire,  
March 28.

## From Mr John Stockton

Sir, One could argue that Mr Ploveright deserved to have his copy of *The Times* nicked from the bar of the Leader Club (March 30) - shouldn't he have been reading the "Pink un"?  
Yours faithfully,  
JOHN STOCKTON,  
34 Mysore Road,  
Barnes, SW11,  
March 30.







**HORSE TRIALS:** Three of Britain's best international riders won the three advanced sections at the Dainiutsu Horse Trials at Brigstock, Devon. *Continued on page 10*



ROWING: THE BOAT RACE IN WHICH THE UNDERDOGS REFUSED TO GIVE UP

Hearts as big as their boat

By Jim Railton

Oxford predictably won the 12th Boat Race on Saturday but were given a tough race by a crew who, according to Oxford's stroke, John Bland, "just never gave up". The tide, as usual, played its role in a conspiracy with the wind. Two hours and 15 minutes, a north-westerly breeze and a "sinker" was on the cards. Oxford, however, with a large outboard on their bows, splashboards and inflated inner tubes tucked under their decks.

Cambridge won the toss of the golden sovereign and chose the Surrey station. But well before the crews reached the stake boats the wind had turned, abated and the tide was only moderate. The danger had passed. Oxford had the initial advantage of the Middlesex bend and they took it.

Oxford went off at a higher rate and were half a length up in the first minute; they were clear before the Mile Post and already attempting to dictate the race. Cambridge bravely pushed beyond the Crabtree but Oxford held. Bland, countering with more pressure approaching Hammersmith Bridge.

Oxford were now almost fully in the lead. Cambridge, however, at the moment, looked ragged. The Oxford coxswain, Higgins, steered wide to catch what tide was available.

Oxford's machine, rowing superbly now, looked set for a runaway victory. At Chiswick Steps they were three lengths ahead and Higgins' only mistake was to skip the Barbarians' six tries, four of them converted by Stringer, against Cardiff's six tries, four of them converted by Stringer, against Cardiff's four goals and two tries, and demonstrated all too clearly the East and West divide in British centres seem to have lost.

The two South Africans, Gerber and Tobias, were the mainstays in all they did. Tobias, an instinctive player with a fine kicking style, and an incisive turn of speed, could always carve out an opening and know that his fellow Springboks would be there in support. Given the room in which to move, Gerber was fast enough to reach all but the soundest tackle. They enjoyed themselves and the capacity crowd enjoyed them.

In their company, Ackerman, the Welshman, blazed. He is one of those young players who could benefit much from a Lions tour. Another who will not be in the Welsh team is the scrum half joining Ackerman at Old Deer Park is the Llanelli scrum half Douglas Sheels, a former Cardiff player.

Not Ireland's day at Mosely on Saturday when England 18 Group defeated Ireland 18 Group by a goal, a try and two penalties to nil.

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Winners all the way: the men that make up the most formidable machine in Oxford's history. Photograph by Chris Smith.

Beware jock-strap crew

Anyone who erroneously believes that sport is only about winning should have witnessed the 1983 Boat Race in which traditional student youth, represented by Cambridge, gave away an average of four years to the internationally mature men of Oxford, yet pushed them so hard that at the finish, in those first brief moments of physical distress as they eased beneath Chiswick Bridge, they could not distinguish between them.

It was only when they were once more ashore that a gulf, wider than the technical one which existed on the water, was again apparent. When one studied their faces before the start that indefinable difference between the unbound, clear-eyed, passionate optimism of youth and the calculated gaze of men who have exchanged romance for reality.

The place in the history of the Boat Race of this young Cambridge crew, heroically led by Simon Harris, is that not only did they manage to make a race of a second-year undergraduate, but they also managed to make a race of a first-year undergraduate. The seven largely international post-graduates - but they will have

obliged Oxford, and indeed all universities, to reconsider the definition of sporting underdogs.

Both Oxford and Cambridge must now take a hard look at striking a balance between retaining their tradition and maintaining their standards relative to an outside-world environment of increasing specialisation and professionalism.

There has existed in certain quarters at Oxford a naive belief that the pursuit of excellence within a dubious regulation - which must be radically overhauled in the next few months - outweighed matters of conscience and sporting morality.

The dilemma for the universities is that because there is a smaller male undergraduate population than in the past, the universities have to study increasingly harder and are now seldom admitted to sporting rather than academic events.

David Miller

and the consequent devaluation of the Boat Race as a national event - What would seem to be an equitable race is that eligibility should be confined to those in residence within five years of starting their first degree. Wherever that was.

You could feel in your bones the near impossibility of Cambridge's task as the crews paddled down the stream for the warm-up at Putney under grey, glistening skies.

When it was all over, and Oxford had in the firmament of experience, one's heart went out to the defeated crew standing around for a while in mute dejection while nearby the boats' mistletoe champagne with the sponsors, the afternoon's other winners with a 14m television audience.

In the grand, drained eyes of the rowers, the defeat was not theirs but the others there was the disillusionment of youth which has given it all to an ideal, and exceeded expectation, only to find that the box at the end of the race is not always the realization that what they have stoutly refused to accept was in fact true. They never had a chance.

David Miller

RUGBY UNION: BARBARIANS IN WALES, BUMBLERS IN SCOTLAND

Jumping for joy with Springboks

By David Hands  
Rugby Correspondent

Cardiff ..... 32  
Barbarians ..... 32

The seven seasons came early to Cardiff Arms Park on Saturday as Cardiff and the Barbarians ran themselves into the ground in a joyous celebration of this traditional Easter meeting. It was contained to a basic seven principle - retention of possession - which enabled Cardiff to haul themselves back from a 14 point deficit and score the victory time try which levelled matters.

It was fitting that Gareth Davies' attempted conversion should go wide both sides had courted each other in the first half, and it would have been the cruellest luck on Gerber, the South African centre, had he been on the losing side. He scored four of the Barbarians' six tries, four of them converted by Stringer, against Cardiff's six tries, four of them converted by Stringer, against Cardiff's four goals and two tries, and demonstrated all too clearly the East and West divide in British centres seem to have lost.

The two South Africans, Gerber and Tobias, were the mainstays in all they did. Tobias, an instinctive player with a fine kicking style, and an incisive turn of speed, could always carve out an opening and know that his fellow Springboks would be there in support. Given the room in which to move, Gerber was fast enough to reach all but the soundest tackle. They enjoyed themselves and the capacity crowd enjoyed them.

In their company, Ackerman, the Welshman, blazed. He is one of those young players who could benefit much from a Lions tour. Another who will not be in the Welsh team is the scrum half joining Ackerman at Old Deer Park is the Llanelli scrum half Douglas Sheels, a former Cardiff player.

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whose job is bringing him to London.

Aggressive, fast, similar in many ways to Holmes himself, he was the only Barbarian to demonstrate consistently how to stop Cardiff's masterful by taking his legs away in the tackle. Not that anyone can stop Holmes completely, or to stop him from scoring, but he was an exquisite dummy, before retiring for an April rest before the Lions tour.

There was a period either side of half-time when the Barbarians, thanks to the constructive efforts of Winterbottom and Cooke, were winning all the loose balls but in the final quarter Cardiff dominated possession and scored three tries.

Two of Gerber's tries and two more from Bailey came in the first half. Stringer kicking three conversions, while Davies converted tries from Freese and Holmes. Davies converted three tries, four of them converted by Stringer, against Cardiff's six tries, four of them converted by Stringer, against Cardiff's four goals and two tries, and demonstrated all too clearly the East and West divide in British centres seem to have lost.

The two South Africans, Gerber and Tobias, were the mainstays in all they did. Tobias, an instinctive player with a fine kicking style, and an incisive turn of speed, could always carve out an opening and know that his fellow Springboks would be there in support. Given the room in which to move, Gerber was fast enough to reach all but the soundest tackle. They enjoyed themselves and the capacity crowd enjoyed them.

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Pleasant awakening for Welsh sleepers

By Nicholas Keith

Swansea ..... 18  
Harlequins ..... 13

Swansea prepared for their Easter Monday jaunt against the Barbarians with a hard earned victory over Harlequins at St Helen's on Saturday. This was revenge for a defeat at Twickenham in October when Harlequins became one of the five teams to beat the Welsh Cup finalists this season.

Success was not assured until injury time, which brought a try for Ruddock to lift the final score to three tries and two penalties to a goal, try and a penalty. After a bright start on a cold, dull day Swansea went to sleep - dreaming of the Barbarians' defeat at Twickenham - and they had to work harder than at first seemed likely.

Both sides opened for a running game and this was where Swansea missed their two injured international backs, Mark Wyatt and David Richards, the club captain. However, with an international season behind him, Darcy looked an excellent stand-off half, who has time and confidence on his side. He did a superb job in the scrum, and made the fifth down in the 99th match of a series which began in 1891.

The two South Africans, Gerber and Tobias, were the mainstays in all they did. Tobias, an instinctive player with a fine kicking style, and an incisive turn of speed, could always carve out an opening and know that his fellow Springboks would be there in support. Given the room in which to move, Gerber was fast enough to reach all but the soundest tackle. They enjoyed themselves and the capacity crowd enjoyed them.

In their company, Ackerman, the Welshman, blazed. He is one of those young players who could benefit much from a Lions tour. Another who will not be in the Welsh team is the scrum half joining Ackerman at Old Deer Park is the Llanelli scrum half Douglas Sheels, a former Cardiff player.

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In Ray Duggan, who kicks goals with effortless ease.

Harlequins missed Cook, who was playing for the Barbarians down the road in Cardiff. The loss meant they had to look forward capable of competing with Gareth Roberts, who lived up to his glowing reputation on West Wales. In the light of the two training sessions at Twickenham, the Scottish lock was not enough to stem the Swansea tide.

Swansea dominated the first quarter and opened the scoring with an unconverted try by John, the prop. Atkins crossed the line for Harlequins, but he was bundled into touch in goal by Rees and this proved a costly miss.

Duggan and Blyth exchanged penalties before Blyth levelled the scores with a try by Dent. Duggan put the visitors ahead with a conversion, Blyth, whose handling was suspect, regained the lead for Swansea with a penalty and a try, but Harlequins refused to buckle and halibuted around over the top with the final pass, again supplied by Dent. However, Duggan missed the conversion and Ruddock had the last word after a telling break by Hutchins.

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It was















## Phone-in shuttle ready to go

From Christopher Thomas  
New York

After a host of false starts, the Challenger, America's newest space shuttle, is ready for launch today from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

The mission has been plagued with troubles, including leaks from the engine and contamination from a dust storm, but all looks well for the craft as its four astronauts to blast off at 7.30 p.m. BST.

Its sister ship, the Columbia, has completed five successful trips, proving the concept of the reusable space ship and establishing the practicality of a commercial service for deploying satellites. This time the public can listen in by telephone to conversations between the astronaut and mission control.

The Challenger lighter and more powerful than the Columbia, is due to launch a communications satellite that will be vital to the deployment later this year of the first space lab. Its success is important: not everybody is impressed by the phenomenal cost of the enterprise and the continuing viability of the Space Transportation System, as it is formally known, is vital if the money is to continue flowing.

The appropriation so far is \$14,000m (£9,333m) but eventually the shuttle should be in profit when it is regularly placing satellites into orbit for governments and other international customers.

The latest mission will last five days. It was originally scheduled for the end of January but, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration hopes to make up lost time and keep to four more shuttle launches this year, three of them with Challenger and one with the refurbished Columbia.

Challenger and Columbia should be joined by two more shuttle craft by 1985 and eventually there will be a mission about every two months. It is hoped to get Challenger ready for its second mission in the second week of June to deploy communications satellites for Canada and Indonesia.

The public in Europe can listen in to conversations between the astronauts and ground control by dialling a special American telephone number set up by NASA. Normal telephone charges apply. The number is 0101-307-410-6272.

## 620 Novas stand by for battle

Days after the lifting of the ban by Vauxhall unions on the import of General Motors' new car, the Nova, 620 cars were unloaded yesterday morning at Royal Portbury Dock, Avonmouth, Bristol.

The cars, made in Spain and known as the Continent as Corsa, will go on sale next month to compete with BL's Metro and Ford's Fiesta.

Vauxhall is looking to the Nova to fill a gap in its model range because of the absence of a modern small car. This section of the market accounts for about one in three of all cars sold in Britain.

With the arrival of Nova, Vauxhall's already remarkable recovery is expected to gain further momentum with its market share increasing from 15 per cent to more than 20 per cent.

Photograph: Bill Warhurst

## Panic grips West Bank towns

### Another 400 schoolgirls 'poisoned'

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Severe Palestinian rioting erupted in many parts of the occupied West Bank yesterday in fierce local reaction to the news that 400 more Palestinian schoolgirls had been struck down with the mysterious disease which affected more than 300 others last month in the town of Jenin.

Large areas were gripped by panic as relatives converged on hospitals where the newly arrived patients were forced to lie two or three in a bed, on benches, and in some cases, on the floor. Despite repeated Israeli denials, many of the 700,000 West Bank Arabs are now firmly convinced they are being subjected to mass poisoning caused by an unknown form of toxic gas which leaves traces of yellow dust.

Senior Israeli military officers believe that the new phenomenon is a form of mass hysteria being deliberately whipped up for political reasons by Palestinian agitators. One bewildered Israeli captain yesterday described the so-far unidentified disease as "the new secret weapon of the Palestine Liberation Organization".

As protesters took to the streets in at least four West

Bank towns, two Israeli soldiers were wounded in Nablus when a hand grenade was thrown at them as they guarded the hospital where scores of the affected girls were being treated with intravenous glucose drips and oxygen masks. In Tulkarim, angry Palestinian youths ransacked an Israeli-owned bank, smashing windows and furniture.

An indication of the gravity of the situation came with the announcement that Israeli troops had clamped strict military curfews in seven places where demonstrations took place. A Palestinian youth was injured when armed settlers opened fire on stone-throwers near Hebron. By nightfall, Israeli and Arab doctors had still failed to provide any positive identification of an organic cause for the epidemic, which makes its victims suffer from nausea, dizziness, dilation of the pupils, severe headaches and a blue colour in certain extremities.

While Israeli officials continue to insist that no evidence has been found of poisoning, either deliberate or accidental, Palestinian doctors who have treated some of the worst cases claim that the most

likely explanation for the symptoms is a form of toxic poisoning. The deputy director of Jenin hospital, Dr Samir Abdul Jabbar, recently said that mass hysteria accounted only for the minority of cases in his town.

The Israeli authorities are acutely aware of the damage which the mystery bug is doing to the international image of the occupation, and to the security situation inside the 2,200 square miles of the West Bank. Tension there is now higher than at any time since the attack on the three Palestinian mayors by Jewish extremists in 1980.

The centre of Hebron, the second largest Arab town, was described as chaotic yesterday as victims were ferried to the overcrowded Alia hospital from the outlying village of Yatta, where the first 200 girls were struck down after allegedly detecting a suspicious smell on the second floor of the local secondary school.

Mr Sayeed el Rhazali, local correspondent for the *Arab Al Fajr* newspaper, described how local youths were commandeering buses to bring in sick girls from outlying hills while the hospital made a desperate plea

for residents to supply private beds to help it out.

When I telephoned the home of the acting Palestinian mayor, Mr Mustafa Natche, a hysterical woman who answered said in broken English: "It is terrible. We are being poisoned by gas from the water", and then ran off. The mayor was later ordered by the Israeli authorities to punish a municipal employee who had been using a loudspeaker van to warn people not to touch the water supply.

As baffled medical experts continued to mount exhaustive tests on some of the newly affected girls at Israeli hospitals in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, two separate independent investigations into the epidemic got under way. One is being run by the International Red Cross and the other by the Centre for Disease Control based in Atlanta, Georgia.

A senior Red Cross doctor met with Israeli experts amid hopes by the authorities that a definitive verdict from an independent group such as the Red Cross can help to control the situation in which traditional hostility against Jews has been severely exacerbated.

## Hope fades for Reagan Middle East proposal

Continued from page 1

such negotiations has been an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon; so far the Israelis have not pulled their army back so much as a mile from central Lebanon.

Even if King Hussein could overlook that, he cannot join the Reagan peace process without a clear and specific mandate from the PLO. Mr Arafat's failure to give him such a mandate will, if it proves permanent, mark the end of the current American proposals.

In fairness, however, it should be added that in many Arab capitals the Reagan plan has been regarded as a dead letter for weeks, even months, and Arab leaders, particularly in the Gulf, believe that Mr Reagan would anyway be unable to exert the necessary pressure on Israel for its success once the American election campaign gets under way.

It remains to be seen whether a final PLO refusal will be recorded by historians as a shrewd political decision based upon the hopelessness of the original Reagan proposals, or a tragedy for the Palestinians will, like so many others since the 1930s, prove to have destroyed yet again their chances of a homeland.

One of the ironies of Mr

Arafat's own political statements just now is that he behaves as if the Israelis desire what the Reagan plan would soon be able to join broader Middle East peace negotiations, Administration officials said, Mohsin Ali reports.

● WASHINGTON: President Reagan telephoned King Hussein on Thursday, reflecting his continuing hope that Jordan would soon be able to join broader Middle East peace negotiations, Administration officials said, Mohsin Ali reports.

They added that the President reaffirmed to the King that, as far as his peace plan and his call for the speedy withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon were concerned, he had "no reverse gear".

● Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, is to visit Saudi Arabia from April 8 to 10, a journey cancelled by the Saudis earlier this year after Britain set conditions unacceptable to the Arabs for a visit to London by an Arab League delegation including a high ranking member of the Palestine Liberation Organization (Our Foreign Staff writes).

## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### Today's events

**New exhibitions**  
Marine paintings and water colours by Timothy F R Thompson. Jerns Art Gallery, 38 King Street, Sandwich, Kent. Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, closed Sun; (from today until April 23).

Porcelain and fine stoneware by Bernard Forrester, and rugs and hangings by Sue Mace. Eighty Eight, Crafts, 88 High Street, Torquay. Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Thurs afternoons and Sun; (from today until April 23).

**Last chance to see**  
Work by Michael Cardew and

pupils. City Art Gallery, Exhibition Square, York. Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 5; (ends today).

**Architecture of the Himalayan Kingdoms**. RPS National Centre of Photography, The Octagon, Milson Street, Bath. Mon to Sat 10 to 4.45, closed Sun; (ends today).

**Ayr Photographic Society members' exhibits**. Macdunn Art Gallery, Rozelle Park, Ayr. Mon to Sat 11 to 5, closed Sun; (ends today).

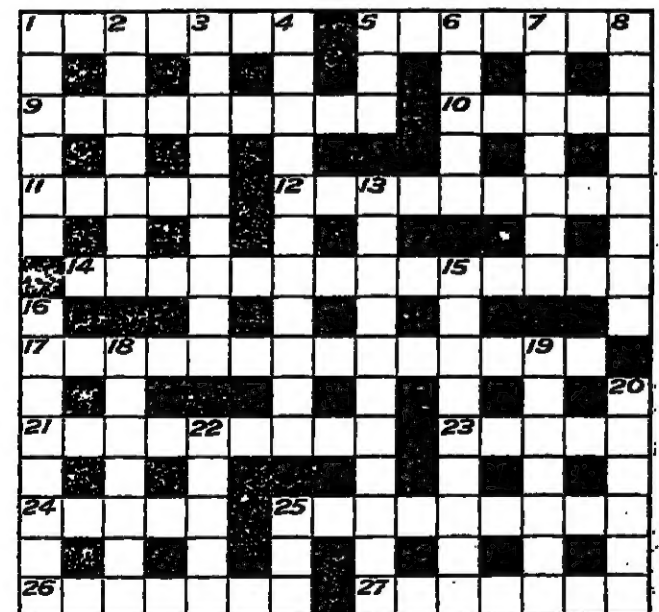
**Recital by Planity**: traditional music from Ireland. Concert Hall, Snape Maltings, Suffolk. 8.30.

**Organ recital by Ian Tracy**. Liverpool Cathedral, 11.15.

**Work by Allan Gwynne-Jones** and the Cimabue Crucifix. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, daily 10 to 6; (both end today).

**Virgil**: the 2000th anniversary.

**The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,094**



AT ROSS

- 1 They get their answers right here (7).
- 2 County having bestowed itself gets a move on (5,2).
- 3 Naaman perhaps or his sword? (9).
- 4 So walk to defy gravity (2,3).
- 5 Sear word cut off most of the broadcast (5).
- 6 Mad little sprinter after a boundary (5,4).
- 7 Great his therapy, producing great sensitivity (14).
- 8 Compact feature of the Arsenal? (6,8).
- 9 Times for debt-collectors to take their holidays (9).
- 10 Concerning cause of man's fall that came from a tree (5).
- 11 Designation for ladies only (15).
- 12 Skirt in wide arcs round walker (9).
- 13 Baseball players subjected to vigorous jerks (7).
- 14 Remedy, as with Mussolini's mare (7).

DOWN

- 1 Cruel man causes Nerissa distress herein (6).
- 2 Light on the Spanish king as a swimmer (7).

**The Solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No. 16,093 will appear next Saturday**

Street, WC1; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 5; (ends today).

### Music

**Organ recital by Roy Massey**. Hereford Cathedral, 1.15.

**Organ recital by Donald Spinks**. Norwich Cathedral, 11.

**City Temple Easter Celebration**. St David's Hall, Cardiff, 3 and 6.30.

**Organ recital by Ian Tracy**. Liverpool Cathedral, 11.15.

**Recital by Planity**: traditional music from Ireland. Concert Hall, Snape Maltings, Suffolk, 8.30.

**Organ recital by Keith Downie**. Newcastle Cathedral, Newcastle upon Tyne, 11.

### General

**Easier activities for children**. Haggis Castle, Pollokshields, Glasgow, from 10.15.

**Ideal Home Exhibition**. Earl's Court Exhibition Centre, SW5, 10 to 8 (ends today).

**Model Railway Exhibition**. Wembley Conference Centre, 10 to 6 (until April 7).

**Kite extravaganza**: displays, hot air balloons and kite flying championships. Blackheath SE3, 10 to 4.

**Harness horse parade**. Regent's Park from 9, parade of winners from 12.

**Fuair at Alexandra Park** (11 to 10); **Blackheath** (11 to 10.30); **Wormwood Scrubs** (11 to 10.30).

### Walks

**City of London, meet Monument** Under ground (Fish Street Hill exit) 2pm.

### Anniversaries

**Birnie**: Graining Gibbons, sculptor and wood carver. Rotterdam, 1648; Sir William Siemens, physicist and engineer, 1823.

**Deaths**: Oliver Goldsmith, London, 1774; Carl Benz, pioneer of automobile engineering, Ladenburg, Germany, 1929. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was signed in Washington, 1949.

### Bond winners

Winning numbers in the weekly draw for Premium Bond prizes are: £100,000: 1627490831 (the winner comes from Surrey, £50,000: 851929431 (Birmingham); £25,000: 9XP921923 (Surrey).

### Top films

**Top box-office films in London last week:**

- (1) Gandhi
- (2) Table for Five
- (3) Local Hero
- (4) The Verdict
- (5) The Missionary
- (6) 48 Hours
- (7) An Officer and a Gentleman
- (8) Heat and Dust
- (9) Let's Spend the Night Together
- (10) Mad Max 2/Max

**Top five in the provinces:**

- (1) Local Hero
- (2) Gandhi
- (3) Mad Max 2/Max
- (4) An Officer and a Gentleman
- (5) The Evil Dead

Compiled by Screen International

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### Nature notes

Blackcaps are back from the Mediterranean, joining the increasing numbers who now stay in Britain for the winter. Though they are inconspicuous birds, their rich song floods the gardens and trees. Yellow wagtails are back in the fields, rushing at insects, their tails gracefully bobbing up and down. Lapwings are nesting in the pastures: the four mottled eggs lie in a neat row in a hollow in the ground. Black-headed gulls have gone from city parks to their nesting colonies on remote marshes and sand-dunes; the ones who linger are mostly brown-flecked birds who were born last summer.

On whitebait, buds are opening like small green fists. On hornbeams, spiky leaves sit side by side with the new, hard catkins. White flowers are also coming. The cherry plum; they are not easy to distinguish at this season except by the blackthorn's spines. Yellow crocuses are flowering on the downs; the first crocuses are a staunch member of the Soviet Bloc.

Senegal, on the west coast of Africa, also celebrates its National Day today. The anniversary commemorates the country's independence from France on April 4, 1960. Under the leadership of President Leopold Senghor and more lately of President Abdou Diouf, Senegal has remained consistently pro-Western, while strengthening its ties with Paris.

### National Days

Hungary's National Day today commemorates the country's liberation from the Nazis in 1945. Although the invasion by the Soviet Union began in September, 1944, fighting on Hungarian soil continued until the last village was cleared of Nazis on April 4, 1945. The Communist Party took power two years later and since the abortive uprising in 1956 the country has remained a staunch member of the Soviet Bloc.

### The pound

**Belgium** Fr 74.75  
**Canada** \$ 1.96  
**Denmark** Kr 13.15  
**France** Fr 11.87  
**Germany** DM 3.70  
**Greece** Dr 128.00  
**Hong Kong** \$ 1.25  
**Ireland** Ir 1.17  
**Italy** Lira 2160.00  
**Japan** Yen 372.00  
**Netherlands** Gld 1.14  
**Norway** Kr 11.45  
**Portugal** Esc 153.00  
**South Africa** Rd 1.79  
**Spain** Ptas 202.00  
**Sweden** Kr 11.48  
**Switzerland** Fr 3.17  
**USA** \$ 1.51

**Retail Price Index** 327.3  
**London: The FT Index** closed up 4.1 on Thursday at 655.1.  
**New York: The Dow Jones** industrial index closed down 13.39 at 1130.0.

### Holiday travel

**ROAD**  
London and South-east: Congestion at Westminster Bridge: Devizes to Westminister cannot race ends today at County Hall steps.

**RAIL**  
London and South-east: Congestion at Westminster Bridge: Devizes to Westminister cannot race ends today at County Hall steps.

**Wales and West**: A38, A380, A376 and southern end of M5: heavy traffic because of racing at Newton Abbot. A48/A466: Heavy traffic because of racing at Newport.

**North**: A54/A59: Motor racing meeting at Oulton Park, Cheshire. M6: Lane closures between junction 16 (Kiddsgrove) and 21 (Warrington).

**Scotland**: M8: Lane closures E of junction 30 (Paisley). A9: Single lane traffic at Bonar Bridge, Shetland. A85: Lane closures on River Clyde. Dundee: Heavy traffic affected by snow in Highland and Grampian regions.

### The papers

Despite the British Government spending what amounts to £2m for each Falkland Islander, they are worse off than they were before the invasion, says the Daily Mirror.

Mrs Thatcher may be prepared to keep a military garrison on the islands indefinitely, but she will not be Prime Minister for ever.

### Lighting-up time

London 6.00 pm to 6.55 am  
Bristol 6.10 pm to 6.55 am  
Edinburgh 6.25 pm to 6.55 am  
Preston 6.30 pm to 6.55 am

### Yesterday

**London**  
Sun Rain 11.1  
Mon Rain 11.1  
Tue Rain 11.1  
Wed Rain 11.1  
Thu Rain 11.1  
Fri Rain 11.1  
Sat Rain 11.1

### Highest and lowest

**Yesterday's highest and lowest temperatures:**  
London: 10.0C (50F) high; 4.0C (39F) low.  
Bristol: 10.0C (50F) high; 4.0C (39F) low.  
Edinburgh: 10.0C (50F) high; 4.0C (39F) low.  
Preston: 10.0C (50F) high; 4.0C (39F) low.

## Weather

A depression will move slowly SE over England.  
6 am to midnight

London, SE, E England, East Angles: Out and in, with rain and drizzle, and snow over hills, becoming brighter with showers; wind variable, light to strong; max temp 7 to 9C (45 to 48F).

Central, SE, E England, East Angles: Out and in, with rain and drizzle, and snow over hills, becoming brighter with showers; wind variable, light to strong; max temp 7 to 9C (45 to 48F).

Midlands, NW, Central N England: A dull and misty start, bright intervals and showers developing; windy over hills; wind variable, light to strong; max temp 7 to 9C (45 to 48F).

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### NOON TODAY

Pressure in mb: 1015. Wind: S.W. 10. Cloud: 100%. Visibility: 1000m. Frost: 10.0C (50F). Snow: 10.0C (50F).

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مذاهب اسلام